

BY: M. of A. Conrad

COMMEMORATING the 140th Anniversary of the
Delaware Hose Company No. 2 of Tonawanda, New York

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 140th Anniversary of the Delaware Hose Company No. 2, and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 14 decades of fire protection to the citizens of Tonawanda and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 140 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of Delaware Hose Company No. 2 have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community which they serve; and

WHEREAS, Established on June 2, 1882, Delaware Hose Company No. 2 was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York on March 2, 1884, and has continued operating under the name ever since; and

WHEREAS, The former site at 21 Delaware Street, occupied by the Delaware Hose House, was first used by the old Citizen's Hand Hose Company, to which some of the present members of the present day Delaware Hose Company belonged; they were proudly proclaimed in the Village of Tonawanda, and were popularly known as "The Citizen's Hose Boys" during this time; and

WHEREAS, For about a year, they rushed to all the fires with their old style hand pumper, which required the effort of 50 to 60 brawny men to adequately supply two lines of hose with water; the hose for the hand pumper was hurried to fires by the Bliss Hose Company, which was also made up of many who became members of the Delaware Hose Company; and

WHEREAS, In 1882, the Bliss Hose Company decided to change its name, and after receiving permission from the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tonawanda, the name was changed to the Delaware Hose Company, which was formally organized on June 2nd of that year with 13 charter members; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of its first 50 years, the countless parades, conventions, reunions, outings and other special social functions in which members of this company have participated, or which the company has held, have always marked the Delaware Company as one of the best organizations of its kind, and its individual members the keenest exponents of a good time when fun was the order of the day; and

WHEREAS, Frequently attending parades during the 1920s and 1930s, the Company won many trophies for the most men in line and best appearing; they also once appeared in Dunnville, Ontario with their new yellow pumper at the invitation of the Canadian authorities, where they were also awarded a trophy; and

WHEREAS, The efforts of the Delaware Hose Company during World War I were commendable as they offered firefighting lessons as they pertained to war and offered valuable first-aid education; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Delaware Hose Company No. 2 in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 140 years, whenever the alarm sounded, these noble volunteers left their homes and went to the aid of their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, The brave firefighters of Delaware Hose Company No. 2 are prepared to risk their lives every day to help save the lives of others and to protect homes and property from the destruction caused by fire; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, no member of the Delaware Hose Company has ever failed to show their willingness to take on the most hazardous tasks in the line of duty; the response of the members of this company has always been prompt and diligent; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body cannot express enough gratitude to those devoted individuals who recognize that the preservation of life and property is a sacred responsibility and who make that responsibility their own by serving as firefighters; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that we should give special recognition to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities, and acknowledge publicly the heroic good works performed by the volunteer fire departments of this great Empire State, their officers and auxiliaries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 140th Anniversary of the Delaware Hose Company No. 2 of Tonawanda, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Delaware Hose Company No. 2.