

BY: M. of A. DeStefano

CELEBRATING the 100th Anniversary of the founding
of the Medford Fire Department

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in recognizing and celebrating important milestones in the history of those organizations that substantially contribute to the health and well-being of their communities; and

WHEREAS, One such organization, the Medford Fire Department, which was founded in 1922, is celebrating the 100th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the formation of a fire department in Medford, groups of neighbors banded together to monitor the area from watchtowers because woodland fires were a significant hazard in the brush and pitch pine; some of these local residents met at the former Westphal's Garage, now known as Tom and Son's, to plan the creation of a volunteer fire department; out of this meeting, the South Medford Independent Hose Company was born; and

WHEREAS, In 1923, the South Medford Independent Hose Company joined the Suffolk County Volunteer Fireman's Association; that same year, they also purchased a piece of fire equipment from the Bay Shore Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, William Hahn, Sr. was elected as the first fire chief and served from 1923 to 1925; the fire department was gifted land by Leroy Smith at State Highway Route 112 and Jamaica Avenue to store their fire equipment; and

WHEREAS, In April of 1926, another group of residents formed a second volunteer fire department, known as the Medford Fire Department Company No. 1; George Mistler served as the fire department's first fire chief; Leroy Smith donated property at Oregon and Peconic Avenues to build a fire house, which opened on June 7, 1940; and

WHEREAS, In April of 1949, the two separate fire companies merged to form the Medford Volunteer Fire Department under the leadership of Fire Chief William Hahn Jr.; since 2014, the Medford Fire Department has answered 1,519 calls, and had their busiest month to date in August of 2020 with 112 emergency calls answered; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality in our state, and with the membership of courageous and devoted volunteer firefighters, the Medford Fire Department has bravely responded to all types of emergencies and has earned the praise and respect of the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, Residents have voted the Medford Fire Department as the 'Best Firehouse on Long Island' in the Best of Long Island contest for three consecutive years, 2017, 2018, and 2019; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body cannot express sufficient 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 celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Medford Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Medford Fire Department.