

BY: Senator COMRIE

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to declare June 2023, as North American Hurricane Awareness Month in the State of New York, at the start of the Atlantic hurricane season

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to declare June 2023, as North American Hurricane Awareness Month in the State of New York, at the start of the Atlantic hurricane season; and

WHEREAS, The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1st to November 30th; and

WHEREAS, National Weather Service defines a hurricane as an intense tropical weather system with well-defined circulation and sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher; and

WHEREAS, The category scale of 1-5 estimates potential property damage, where a category 3 or higher is considered a major hurricane; as the wind speed and intensity of a storm increases, the category number increases; and

WHEREAS, Hurricanes can pose a significant threat to many communities; the damage and trauma sustained from Hurricane Sandy was the deadliest and most destructive hurricane of the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season in New York; and

WHEREAS, There are four stages of hurricane development: tropical disturbance, tropical depression, tropical storm, tropical cyclone (hurricane); and

WHEREAS, Tropical disturbance is defined when cloud columns develop into a cluster of thunderstorms; tropical depression is when thunderstorms intensify, with maximum sustained winds of 38 mph; and tropical storm is when maximum sustained winds are between 39-73 mph; during this time, the storm becomes more circular in shape, with winds swirling around a calm center, known as the eye; this is when the storm is named; and

WHEREAS, Tropical cyclone, or hurricane, is when wind speeds reach 74 mph and the storm is at least 50,000 feet high and 125 miles across, rotating around an eye that spans 5-30 miles wide; and

WHEREAS, The National Hurricane Center strongly advises hurricane preparedness and that it begins at home; and

WHEREAS, For many people, hurricane preparedness is not at the top of their to-do list; most families have to juggle multiple, competing priorities; the Red Cross believes preparedness matters because it saves lives; and

WHEREAS, Hurricanes are life-threatening storms; they can bring heavy rains that cause major flooding, destructive winds that down power lines, uproot trees and damage homes, and storm surges that travel several miles inland destroying everything in its path; and

WHEREAS, Preparation is the best protection against the dangers of a hurricane; families and individuals should build an emergency kit and create an evacuation plan for their household; and

WHEREAS, A vital emergency kit should be equipped with the proper supplies you may need in the event of an emergency or disaster; at a minimum, you should have the basic supplies, including: water, food, flashlight, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra batteries, first aid kit, medications and medical items, multi-purpose tool, sanitation and personal hygiene items, copies of personal documents, cell phone with chargers, family and emergency contact information, extra cash, emergency blanket, and map(s) of the area; and

WHEREAS, An effective evacuation plan has three steps and begins with a family discussion on how to prepare and respond to all types of emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, work, and play; and

WHEREAS, Step two is to identify responsibilities for each member of your household and how you will work together as a team if disaster strikes; and the final step includes practicing as many elements of your plan as possible; and

WHEREAS, As hurricane season approaches, it is also important to know the difference between the threat levels; a hurricane watch indicates the possibility that a region could experience hurricane conditions within 48 hours; and a hurricane warning indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 36 hours; get ready to act if a warning is issued and stay informed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to declare June 2023, as North American Hurricane Awareness Month in the State of New York, at the start of the Atlantic hurricane season; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.