

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING the Utica Oneida County Branch of the NAACP upon the occasion of hosting its 40th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute March on January 15, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those enduring organizations which devote their purposeful energies to improving the quality and dignity of life of those they serve, to preserving their heritage, and to fostering pride among them; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Utica Oneida Branch of the NAACP upon the occasion of hosting its 40th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute March on Monday, January 15, 2024, at St. Paul's Baptist Church, Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, This annual observance is a time to celebrate, commemorate and honor the life, legacy and impact of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; the event gives citizens of the community the unique opportunity to learn and unite in celebration of Dr. King's groundbreaking work; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, as we witness nations around the world continue to struggle under the weight of violence, hate and poverty, today's social, political, and economic landscape reveals the urgent necessity of Dr. King's philosophy and methodology of non-violence, as a sustainable solution to injustice and violence in our world; and

WHEREAS, The oldest and largest civil rights organization, the NAACP was founded in 1909, in New York City by a group of black and white citizens committed to improving the quality of life for African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, after observing that the political and social mores in Oneida County did not support the needs of the minority population, Ed Bass began working tirelessly to organize a local NAACP branch to assist minority groups in obtaining equal rights; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the Utica Oneida County Branch's effective utilization of the NAACP committee system has kept an eye out for minority participation in all areas of the community, and has sent leadership delegations to State conventions in Buffalo, New York City, Syracuse, Rochester, Geneva, Westchester, and Albany, as well as to National Conventions in Indianapolis, Baltimore, and New York City; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Utica Oneida County NAACP has hosted countless initiatives and events, including Black History Month, Soul Day, Juneteenth, and Kwanzaa celebrations, as well as Dr. Martin Luther King Tributes, Freedom Fund Dinners, Diversity Affairs, Poverty Symposiums, League of Women Political Debates, and Voter Registration

Drives; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, this vital organization has worked to address environmental issues through organized cleanups and tree plantings, and established a direct link to the Chief of Police to keep communication lines open between the community and local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Utica Oneida County Branch of the NAACP continues to fulfill its mission to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body commends the Utica Oneida County Branch of the NAACP for its excellence and for its commitment and contributions to the community it so ably serves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Utica Oneida County Branch of the NAACP upon the occasion of hosting its 40th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute March on January 15, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Utica Oneida County Branch of the NAACP.