

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING Police Chief David J. Collins, the first Black chief in the department and the city's history, upon the occasion of his retirement from Rome Police Department

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished officers and citizens who would devote themselves to public service, demonstrating great courage and diligence in providing for the care and welfare of the citizens of their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Within every community of the State of New York there are certain individuals who, by virtue of their commitment and dedication, command the respect and admiration of their community for their exemplary contributions and service on behalf of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Police Chief David J. Collins, the first Black chief in the department and the city's history, upon the occasion of his retirement from Rome Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Moving to Rome, New York at the age of 16 with his father, who was based at Griffiss Air Force Base as a Master Sergeant for the United States Air Force, David J. Collins graduated from Rome Free Academy and joined the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, David J. Collins served over 22 years in the military between active duty and the reserves before retiring in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his hire as a Rome police officer in 2005, David J. Collins was a licensed practical nurse at St. Elizabeth Campus of the Mohawk Valley Health System in Utica; however, from a young age he was inspired by his father's role in the Air Force and by the role of policemen; and

WHEREAS, When David J. Collins was sworn in as the new deputy chief for the Rome Police Department 2 years ago, it was the first time the Department had a full change in leadership in almost 14 years; he was a 17-year veteran of the department, having previously served as a patrolman, sergeant, lieutenant and captain; and Collins served two years as chief.

WHEREAS, Striving to do his best for the City of Rome, the community, and the Rome Police Department, Police Chief David J. Collins said his primary goal as chief was maintaining a positive relationship with the community, including continuing the Community Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Jeany, and his five children, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and

rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those dedicated public servants who unselfishly devote their lives to the preservation of order and the protection of others are worthy and due full praise for their commitment and noble endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Police Chief David J. Collins, the first Black chief in the department and the city's history, upon the occasion of his retirement from Rome Police Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Police Chief David J. Collins.