

BY: Senator MAYER

COMMENDING NAMI Westchester upon the occasion of celebrating its 40th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend NAMI Westchester upon the occasion of celebrating its 40th Anniversary at its Find Help, Find Hope Gala at the Surf Club on the Sound in New Rochelle, New York, on Thursday, March 21, 2024; and

WHEREAS, The National Alliance on Mental Illness was founded by Harriet Shetler and Beverly Young in Madison, Wisconsin; both women had sons who were diagnosed with schizophrenia and were dissatisfied with the lack of available services and the treatment of those suffering with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, After encountering other individuals with similar concerns, the first meeting was held to address mental health issues, leading to the formation of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill in 1979; the name was changed to the acronym, NAMI, in 1997; and

WHEREAS, NAMI Westchester was established by a five-person committee under the name Westchester Advocates for the Mentally Ill in 1980; in 1983, the organization was incorporated and granted tax exemption; in 1998, the name was changed and incorporated as National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Westchester, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, The mission of NAMI Westchester is to assure that people who are mentally ill are afforded the same basic human rights as all other citizens, to improve and ensure the quality of life for the mentally ill, and to promote positive relationships with the community at large; and

WHEREAS, Certain issues, such as stigma, housing, education, and patients' rights, became priorities of the advocates for the mentally ill; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, NAMI Westchester has been the leading organization in Westchester County to support the families of the victims of mental illness, offering resources, help, and hope to those individuals who require guidance and assistance; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend NAMI Westchester upon the occasion of celebrating its 40th Anniversary, and to honor its members, past and present, who have labored so conscientiously to secure and improve the quality of life for the members of the community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to NAMI Westchester.