

Senate Resolution No. 2267

BY: Senator ROLISON

CONGRATULATING the City of Poughkeepsie upon the occasion of hosting the 17th Annual Guelaguetza Festival on August 4, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay just tribute to the cultural heritage of the ethnic groups which comprise and contribute to the richness and diversity of the community 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 congratulate the City of Poughkeepsie upon the occasion of hosting the 17th Annual Guelaguetza Festival on Sunday, August 4, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Originating in Oaxaca, Mexico, the Guelaguetza Festival is an annual celebration that brings families, friends, and communities together to celebrate, dance, and enjoy the colorful traditions of Oaxaca; and

WHEREAS, The local Oaxacan community began the festival, now in its 17th year, in order to strengthen cultural and community bonds in the city of Poughkeepsie and the broader Hudson Valley region; and

WHEREAS, "Guelaguetza" is a word from the indigenous Zapotec language that means sharing of mutual gifts, and that is the spirit of Poughkeepsies' festival where more than 100 artists, dancers, musicians, and singers present the culture and traditions of the eight regions of Oaxaca, Mexico, highlighting the typical dances, the music of the towns, the flavors, and the majestic colors of the costumes of Oaxaca; and

WHEREAS, A binational celebration, groups, presenters, and teachers coming specially from Oaxaca, Mexico, gather at this renowned event to participate in the La Guelaguetza de Poughkeepsie Festival; and

WHEREAS, The Poughkeepsie shore of the Hudson River has been home to La Guelaguetza since 2008; this most important of festivals for the Oaxacan community is an opportunity to spend time with friends and neighbors regardless of race, color, language, gender identity, or nationality; a moment for all to enjoy the culture, traditions, music, dance, food, and identity of the native peoples of Oaxaca; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize such events of significance which foster ethnic pride and exemplify the cultural diversity that represents and strengthens the fabric of the people and the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the City of Poughkeepsie upon the occasion of hosting the 17th Annual Guelaguetza Festival on August 4, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Grupo Folclorico de Poughkeepsie and the Poughkeepsie Guelaguetza Organizing Committee.