

**BY:** Senator MARTINEZ

**WELCOMING** and paying tribute to Sheriff Errol D. Toulon Jr. upon the occasion of his visit to the Legislative Chambers of the New York State Capitol in Albany, New York, on May 21, 2024

**WHEREAS,** The quality and sanctity of community life are cherished values, worthy of safeguarding, and this Legislative Body is moved to honor those individuals who serve to preserve and protect such values, lauding particularly their unwavering courage and dedication in the daily performance of their duties; 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,** Sheriff Errol D. Toulon Jr., a 41-year law enforcement veteran of Suffolk County, New York, has given not only of his time and energies, but also of his competence, intelligence, and leadership, and consequently, has been designated for a special welcome to the Legislative Chambers of the New York State Capitol; and

**WHEREAS,** The Suffolk Sheriff's Office is dedicated to improving community safety, protecting life and property, and reducing crime within this county of over 1.5 million residents; its mission encompasses not only upholding our state's civil and criminal statutes and holding those who choose to disobey accountable, but also rehabilitation for those who have made mistakes and have been remanded into its custody; and

**WHEREAS,** The sheriff's work requires a delicate balance of strength and compassion, paired with dedicated leadership and a vast knowledge of duties, to fulfill the oath each member of the office upholds on behalf of the residents of the county; and

**WHEREAS,** Sheriff Errol D. Toulon Jr. began his career as a correction officer with the New York City Department of Corrections and served for 25 years with that agency before retiring as a captain; after his retirement, he served in Suffolk County government as an Assistant Deputy County Executive for Public Safety and returned to the city's Department of Corrections to serve as Deputy Commissioner of Operations until becoming Suffolk County's 67th Sheriff in 2018; and

**WHEREAS,** Sheriff Errol D. Toulon Jr.'s approach to law enforcement focuses on the power of community input in government, volunteerism behind the bars, and how correctional institutions can change lives for the better; revisioning the role of the Sheriff's Office literally starts with him, as he has been a steward of the Sheriff's Transition and Reentry Team (S.T.A.R.T.) which began under his leadership; and

**WHEREAS,** The belief that redemption begins with mercy is demonstrated through Sheriff Errol D. Toulon Jr.'s unrelenting and dedicated efforts; he stands constant in good grace and dignity in proving that acting with humanity is an integral part of rehabilitation in Suffolk County; and

**WHEREAS,** It is appropriate to recognize and commend such outstanding law enforcement officers as Sheriff Errol D. Toulon Jr. for their valued contributions to their community and beyond; 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 welcome and pay tribute to Sheriff Errol D. Toulon Jr. upon the occasion of his visit to the Legislative Chambers of the New York State Capitol in Albany, New York, on May 21, 2024; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sheriff Errol D. Toulon Jr.