

BY: M. of A. Santabarbara

COMMEMORATING the 135th Anniversary of the YWCA of
NorthEastern NY

WHEREAS, From time to time, society calls upon individuals and organizations to be recognized for the significance of their contributions and efforts to assist others in developing the skills necessary to be successful, productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 135th Anniversary of the YWCA of NorthEastern NY in Schenectady, New York; and

WHEREAS, Since its beginnings in 1888, the YWCA of NorthEastern NY has been a constant innovator in providing programs and services to meet the changing needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, A charter member of YWCA USA, the oldest and largest women's membership organization, the YWCA of NorthEastern NY works tirelessly to eliminate racism and empower women by offering comprehensive domestic violence services and safe shelter; affordable housing and housing services; early learning curriculum; counseling; advocacy; and more; and

WHEREAS, Renowned for its domestic violence programs, the YWCA of NorthEastern NY is the only licensed domestic violence shelter in Schenectady County and provides a secure place for victims and their children that is staffed 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year; and

WHEREAS, The YWCA of NorthEastern NY also provides free and confidential individual and group counseling to victims of domestic violence, as well as economic empowerment, assisting women in obtaining employment, education, and financial stability, and providing life skills counseling, employment exploration, communication techniques, and stress and time management; and

WHEREAS, In addition, its Domestic Violence Holiday Assistance program provides women, men and children with gifts, wrapping paper, and household items which were generously donated from community members and organizations; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this vital organization has a 24-hour emergency victim hotline, and its advocates are located at Schenectady Police station, Family Court, and Child Protective Services; and

WHEREAS, The YWCA of NorthEastern NY's housing program provides safe housing and services for homeless and/or low-income women; support services for the women include advocacy, counseling, support groups, information and referrals, health and recreation opportunities, and an emergency food pantry and clothing closet; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to local youth, the YWCA of NorthEastern NY has two early childhood learning centers, both of which are licensed and accredited, and offer full-day early learning care, including developmentally appropriate curriculum for children from six weeks to five years old; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished 135-year history, the YWCA of NorthEastern NY has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of the YWCA of NorthEastern NY is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated staff and volunteers, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; 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 citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 135th Anniversary of the YWCA of NorthEastern NY; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the YWCA of NorthEastern NY.