Senate Resolution No. 1024

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMENDING the City of Schenectady upon the occasion of hosting its 20th Annual Little Italy StreetFest on September 6, 2025

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those municipalities that partner with their local business communities while recognizing celebrations which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the City of Schenectady upon the occasion of hosting its 20th Annual Little Italy StreetFest on Saturday, September 6, 2025, on North Jay Street; and

WHEREAS, The Schenectady Digital History Archive contains a chronicle entitled, "Electric City Immigrants," which connotes the significant contributions made by Italian Americans in the city's early years; and

WHEREAS, For many decades, the State of New York has held the distinction of having the highest population of Italian Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS Italian American food and winemaking are based primarily on the culinary traditions of Southern Italian immigrants, although a significant number of Northern Italian immigrants also came to the United States and influenced this style of cuisine to some extent; and

WHEREAS, Established in 2006, the Annual Little Italy StreetFest is held each year after Labor Day, and with the help of The Little Italy Business Association, has been a staple in the Schenectady community ever since; and

WHEREAS, The Little Italy StreetFest attracts renowned local establishments such as Perreca's, More Perreca's, Civitello's, and Cornell's, which bring the flavors of Italy to the heart of Schenectady and serve up Italian favorites such as pasta, meatballs, Italian ice, gelato, tomato pie, and arancini; and

WHEREAS, The city closes off North Jay Street for the day so residents can enjoy authentic Italian family fun, with a full music lineup and numerous children's activities, including face painting, balloons, and improvisation classes with MopCo Theatre; and

WHEREAS This auspicious day provides an opportunity to celebrate the significant contributions of Italian Americans so that all people may know and appreciate Italian history, traditions, and of the role Italian Americans have played in Schenectady, and will continue to play, in our

communities, State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the City of Schenectady upon the occasion of hosting its 20th Annual Little Italy StreetFest on September 6, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members of the Little Italy Business Association in the City of Schenectady.