

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

CONGRATULATING Rabbi Dana Bogatz upon the occasion of her retirement after years of dedicated service to First Hebrew Congregation in Peekskill, New York

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Rabbi Dana Bogatz upon the occasion of her retirement as Rabbi of First Hebrew Congregation in Peekskill, New York, after years of dedicated service to her congregation and community; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Dana Bogatz is a second-career rabbi whose path to spiritual leadership began after earning a degree in agricultural economics and rural sociology and working in the floral import/export industry; at the age of 30, she entered rabbinical seminary and ultimately earned her ordination from The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, where she was recognized with the prestigious award for Practical Theology; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of two decades as both rabbi and chaplain, Rabbi Dana Bogatz has served her communities with compassion and commitment; she completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Bridgeport Hospital, where she also served as chaplain and founded Connecticut's first Death Cafe, providing a forum for open and meaningful conversations about life and mortality; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Dana Bogatz brought her broad life experience, including her work at a women's education and career development center, into her rabbinical service, applying social work skills and a deep understanding of community building to her role as a spiritual leader; and

WHEREAS, In her tenure as the first woman rabbi in the 120-year history of First Hebrew Congregation in Peekskill, Rabbi Dana Bogatz has guided her Conservative congregation through significant changes while maintaining reverence for tradition; and

WHEREAS, Among her many meaningful contributions, Rabbi Dana Bogatz helped modernize congregational practices in ways that foster inclusivity and community engagement, such as revising longstanding kosher food policies to allow broader participation in potluck meals and

events; under the new guidelines developed during her leadership, food prepared in non-kosher home kitchens may now be shared outside the synagogue's kitchen using paper goods, making communal gatherings more accessible and welcoming; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Dana Bogatz has exemplified the highest ideals of spiritual leadership, compassion, and community service, and her legacy will continue to inspire those she has guided, taught, and served; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Rabbi Dana Bogatz upon the occasion of her well-deserved retirement, and to commend her for her dedicated service, compassionate leadership, and lasting contributions to her congregation and the broader community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Dana Bogatz.