

BY: Senator MARTINS

COMMENDING HEARTS PW upon the occasion of hosting its Red Party on February 27, 2026, and paying tribute to its distinguished honorees

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those organizations and individuals whose commitment to community enrichment, education, and the arts significantly enhances the quality of life for the residents of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, HEARTS PW (Helping Enrich the Arts of Port Washington) has long been dedicated to supporting, promoting, and sustaining arts and cultural programming throughout the Port Washington community, thereby fostering creativity, access, and engagement for residents of all ages; and

WHEREAS, HEARTS PW will host its annual Red Party on Friday, February 27, 2026, a signature fundraising and celebratory event that highlights the organization's mission and honors individuals whose service and leadership have had a profound impact on the arts in Port Washington; and

WHEREAS, This year's Red Party proudly honors Eric Gewirtz, Lauren Foster-Holzer, and Christine Nelson, three exceptional individuals whose dedication to arts leadership and education exemplifies the highest ideals of public service and community commitment; and

WHEREAS, Eric Gewirtz has demonstrated exceptional leadership through his service on the HEARTS PW Board since 2017, including his tenure as Board President from 2020 through 2025, during which time he guided the organization through the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic while strengthening its governance and expanding its impact; and

WHEREAS, During his presidency, Eric Gewirtz worked closely with the Board to recruit new members, significantly increase total grant awards year over year, and elevate the organization's visibility through strategic and engaging storytelling within the Port Washington community; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong advocate for the arts, Eric Gewirtz has built a distinguished career in arts communications, supporting major cultural institutions including the New York Philharmonic and Lincoln Center, and now serves as Senior Vice President at Rubenstein Communications, while continuing to serve HEARTS PW through leadership of PortFest and oversight of communications; and

WHEREAS, Lauren Foster-Holzer is a dedicated educator and arts leader who has directed musical productions and produced drama productions for the Schreiber Theatre Company for the past 17 years, creating inclusive and inspiring theatrical experiences that foster artistic growth and personal development among students; and

WHEREAS, A proud alumna and resident of Port Washington, Lauren Foster-Holzer has deep roots in the community and serves the Port Washington School District as a Special Education teacher at Paul D. Schreiber High School, as well as an advisor to the Student Council and a coach of the Portettes; and

WHEREAS, Through her commitment to collaboration, creativity, and student-centered learning, Lauren Foster-Holzer has shaped meaningful educational and artistic experiences that resonate long after the final curtain call, and she remains grateful to be honored by HEARTS PW, a steadfast supporter of the Schreiber Theatre Company; and

WHEREAS, Christine Nelson is a dedicated educator, director, and theater professional who has served the Paul D. Schreiber High School community for many years as both a Science Teacher and a creative co-leader of the Schreiber Theatre Company; and

WHEREAS, Christine Nelson brings extensive professional experience to her work, including prior service as Lead Teacher for Arts in Education for Nassau County BOCES, performance and directing experience, and advanced training in educational theater, acting, and directing from respected institutions; and

WHEREAS, Christine Nelson is being recognized alongside Lauren Foster-Holzer for their nearly two-decade partnership defined by collaboration and artistic excellence, through which they have directed and produced an extensive repertoire of stage plays and musicals that have enriched the cultural life of Port Washington and supported the creative journeys of countless students; and

WHEREAS, The collective dedication and achievements of the honorees exemplify the mission of HEARTS PW and underscore the essential role that arts organizations and arts educators play in strengthening communities and enriching public life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend HEARTS PW upon the occasion of hosting its Red Party on February 27, 2026, and to honor Eric Gewirtz, Lauren Foster-Holzer, and Christine Nelson for their outstanding service, leadership, and enduring contributions to the arts and education in Port Washington; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to HEARTS PW and this year's aforementioned honorees.