

**BY:** M. of A. Barclay

**CONGRATULATING** Diane Cooper-Currier upon the occasion of her retirement, as Executive Director, after more than 40 years of distinguished service to Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1984, Diane Cooper-Currier joined the staff of Oswego County Opportunities (OCO), Inc., as Supervisor of the agency's Girls Group Home; in this capacity, she supervised a group home for youths in foster care; working directly with youths at the house, she helped the young people see hope and let them know that they are resilient and able to survive various situations; and

**WHEREAS,** With her passion for helping young adults, Diane Cooper-Currier became a member of a group which focused on issues with runaway and homeless youths in Oswego County, leading to several volunteers in participation with OCO; and

**WHEREAS,** Under Diane Cooper-Currier's supervision, volunteers conducted a research project to document incidents of runaway and homeless youths in Oswego County; this led to her writing grants that would help OCO receive its first funding for these young people; and

**WHEREAS,** With the expansion of youth programming, all services were brought together under one umbrella, and OCO established the Youth Services Division, naming Diane Cooper-Currier as Director; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1998, Diane Cooper-Currier took a leave of absence to earn a master's degree in social work from Syracuse University in 2000; upon returning to OCO, she served as Training and Development Performance Coordinator for the agency; and

**WHEREAS,** As Training and Development Performance Coordinator, Diane Cooper-Currier used similar adult learning principles to train staff and improve the systems and procedures for OCO; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2002, Diane Cooper-Currier was appointed as OCO's Deputy Executive Director, demonstrating her abilities as an inclusive and supportive leader; she developed community partners and additional potential partners to further OCO's mission to meet the needs of the community; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2007, Diane Cooper-Currier was named Executive Director; for the past 18 years, under her leadership, education services, which were primarily Head Start and Day Care, now offer after-school programming and adult learning; she also led the development of OCO's Backstreet Bookstore and Coffee Shop, providing training for community

members to gain experience in retail services and other skills; and

**WHEREAS**, Under Diane Cooper-Currier's capable guidance, the homeless services programs, which were primarily focused on youths, now serve individuals, families, and young adults; OCO's residential services for populations, such as adults with mental health issues, expanded, and the agency moved into building and providing affordable and workforce housing; and

**WHEREAS**, During Diane Cooper-Currier's tenure, OCO has built and developed residential homes for its programs, providing services for individuals who are developmentally disabled, dealing with substance abuse disorder, or struggling with behavioral health issues; and

**WHEREAS**, Throughout her many years of dedication and service to OCO, Diane Cooper-Currier has earned the admiration, esteem, and affection of her colleagues; she has dedicated her life's work to improving the lives of others by helping them succeed and see their full potential; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Diane Cooper-Currier upon the occasion of her retirement, as Executive Director, after more than 40 years of distinguished service to Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Diane Cooper-Currier.