

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 40th Anniversary of THE EMPTY CLOSET

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those illustrious journalistic entities which have diligently and consistently, year after year, recorded the history of their communities and brought local news and news of the larger world to their readers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of THE EMPTY CLOSET; and

WHEREAS, In honor of this auspicious event, the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley will be holding a celebration at the Auditorium Center on Sunday, February 27, 2011; and

WHEREAS, First published in 1971, THE EMPTY CLOSET is the oldest continuously printed gay newspaper in New York State; the paper was created by a student group formed at the University of Rochester as part of the growing nationwide gay liberation movement; and

WHEREAS, THE EMPTY CLOSET was used as a vehicle by the Gay Liberation Front, then the Gay Brotherhood and finally the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley to inform and energize the Rochester gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) community; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 40 years, THE EMPTY CLOSET has been a testament to an extensive period of unprecedented social and political change that has greatly affected the gay community; and

WHEREAS, Today, THE EMPTY CLOSET, with its circulation of 5000, serves as an expressive voice to the people of the Rochester region by providing a platform for all members of its community; and

WHEREAS, This progressive paper has been a powerful tool in documenting the social, political, religious, cultural, artistic, business and literary history and events for the GLBT community of Rochester and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this newspaper serves as an instrument of education and change for the non-GLBT community members; THE EMPTY CLOSET Newspaper has contributed significantly to the Rochester region's national reputation for leadership in social tolerance; 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 the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of THE EMPTY CLOSET; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to THE EMPTY CLOSET.