

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Village of Atlantic Beach

WHEREAS, Each and every city, town, village and hamlet within its borders proudly resonates with the rich and noble history of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commemorate the anniversary of the founding of municipalities throughout the State, noting in turn their contributions to the fabric and development of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Village of Atlantic Beach, New York, to be celebrated on June 20 and 21, 2012, recognizing the significance of this special anniversary and applauding its distinguished history; and

WHEREAS, On Wednesday, June 20, 2012, the Village of Atlantic Beach will celebrate this auspicious occasion with an Anniversary Eve Dinner to be held at the Sunny Atlantic Beach Club on Ocean Boulevard and, on the afternoon and evening of Thursday, June 21, 2012, Atlantic Beach residents will celebrate on The Plaza with rides and games, arts and crafts, demonstrations by Atlantic Beach Rescue, music and performances by local talent, a vintage automobile parade and exhibit, beautification displays and, complimentary anniversary cake and dessert on the boardwalk; and

WHEREAS, Atlantic Beach is an incorporated village located in Nassau County on the South Shore of Long Island, New York; it is within the Town of Hempstead and the only village on the island which became incorporated since 1938; and

WHEREAS, Atlantic Beach has always been about the beaches, its greatest and most treasured asset; it was the beaches which attracted development in the late 1920s and 1930s and since; and

WHEREAS, It was the safeguarding of the privacy and control of the beaches which motivated the push to incorporate and, it was preservation of the beaches and oceanfront property which resulted in the change of zoning to a Marine Recreation District, a zoning classification which prevents any further residential development along the oceanfront and preserves the beaches for all, among the most important and significant decisions and occurrences in the history of the Village; and

WHEREAS, The first real interest in the growing barrier island of Atlantic Beach came in 1922 when Robert Moses, the famous highway builder and public works czar, and the then Chairman of the State Council of Parks, included Atlantic Beach as part of his "State Park Plan for New York"; and

WHEREAS, The blueprint, which is believed to be still on file at the archives in Albany, showed a parkway from central Queens to a bridge crossing Reynolds Channel with architecturally refined facilities for thousands of beach goers; unfortunately however, cost overruns on many of Mr. Moses' other projects at the time and other factors dampened his plans which were ultimately abandoned; and

WHEREAS, In 1923, a private company, Atlantic Beach Associates, headed by Stephen P. Pettit, a Freeport banker and former sheriff, purchased the property to develop 3,500 lots and named it Atlantic Beach; Stephen Pettit had visions of creating a resort beachfront community; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Pettit died before he could advance his vision of a resort community to equal Long Beach, which was already thriving a few miles to the east, or Atlantic City in New Jersey but in 1926, another

developer, William Austin with his associate, C.N. Talbot, formed Island Park Associates and purchased the land for \$4,000,000; and

WHEREAS, Austin and Talbot completed Pettit's preliminary dredging and shoring work, and proceeded with plans to subdivide the property; The Title Guarantee and Trust Company approved a first mortgage loan on 45 homes to be erected by the company, the first of 150 dwellings planned, the homes were all designed with seven rooms, two baths, private detached garages on 40' x 88' lots, and were built in Spanish, Normandy, Dutch or Moroccan styles; the homes were all stucco with tile roofs, in a variety of tropical colors, and were suitable for year-round habitation; and

WHEREAS, The new corporation, with the intention of developing the area into a seaside community of homes and resorts, filed a map in 1926 and another in 1927 showing lots, streets, beaches, and boardwalk; streets were provided to the beach and the bay at roughly every third block; and

WHEREAS, William Austin laid in gas and electric lines and a sanitary sewer system was installed in 1927; the boardwalk was planned for the entire ocean side but, as constructed, it was about a mile long, stretching from west of The Plaza and extending easterly beyond Vernon Avenue; and

WHEREAS, A sales and development campaign was started; many of the advertisements touted the success of Atlantic City in New Jersey, promoting an even bigger and better resort, with the bonus of its proximity to New York City; the boardwalk, then double the width of what exists today, was built and opened in 1929; and

WHEREAS, The Atlantic Beach Bridge opened and was officially dedicated on June 29, 1927; and

WHEREAS, The Castles Beach Club opened in May 1928; the Atlantic Beach Club, later known as the Atlantic Beach Hotel & Cabana Club, the ABH, opened in 1930 and plans were announced for the building of the Casa del Mar (later the Nautilus Hotel), an apartment hotel, which upon completion, became an overnight sensation and, in August 1930, the new homeowners in Atlantic Beach joined together and formed the Atlantic Beach Property Owners' Association; and

WHEREAS, Atlantic Beach became of vital importance to the government during World War II; a 120 foot concrete lookout tower was constructed at the tip of Silverpoint with both the bridge and its accesses to Silverpoint being designated as emergency military routes in time of war; during this time, homeowners also patrolled the beaches for signs of enemy submarines; and

WHEREAS, By the end of World War II, Atlantic Beach had become a summer mecca with thousands of city dwellers clogging what were then only local streets through both the Rockaways and the Five Towns; and

WHEREAS, On October 14, 1950, a ground breaking ceremony for the new Atlantic Beach Bridge was held and the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new bridge was held on May 10, 1952; and

WHEREAS, In 1953, the building of nine stone jetties by the Army Corps of Engineers, replacing deteriorating wooden jetties commenced and, in June of that year the reconstruction of the Boardwalk from The Plaza to Putnam was completed; and

WHEREAS, After 15 years of effort by and on behalf of the people of Atlantic Beach, the Village of Atlantic Beach was incorporated in 1962; the first Village Election was held in June 1962, electing the first Village Board and the long serving and highly esteemed Fred Lager as Mayor, who served for 28 years; Stephen Mahler has served as the Mayor of the Village of Atlantic Beach since 1996; and

WHEREAS, The Atlantic Beach Village Office at 60 Park Street officially opened on November 18, 1962; the all-volunteer Atlantic Beach Auxiliary Police unit was established in 1969; the new Atlantic Beach Village Hall at 65 The Plaza officially opened on June 6, 1971; the all-volun-

teer Atlantic Beach Rescue Unit officially went into service in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, the Village of Atlantic Beach retains its commitment to enhancing the quality of life of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, As the Village of Atlantic Beach celebrates the 50th Anniversary of its incorporation, it honors its illustrious past, its proud heritage and its promising future; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the Village of Atlantic Beach's rich history and enduring contribution to the State of New York, this Legislative Body is proud to pay tribute to this spirited Village upon the occasion of the celebration of its 50th Anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Village of Atlantic Beach and to enthusiastically salute its residents as they celebrate this auspicious occasion on June 20 and 21, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Village of Atlantic Beach, New York.