

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of THE CITIZEN on June 10, 2016

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 200th Anniversary of THE CITIZEN to be celebrated at a Luncheon on Friday, June 10, 2016, at the Hilton Garden, Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Published continuously for the past two centuries, THE CITIZEN, also known as THE AUBURN CITIZEN, is the only daily newspaper published in Auburn, New York; the newspaper, owned by Lee Enterprises, serves Cayuga County and parts of the Central New York region; and

WHEREAS, From its beginnings as THE AUBURN GAZETTE in 1816, through a long list of successor publications, THE CITIZEN has chronicled local, state, national and international events of all types for 200 years; and

WHEREAS, On June 6, 1816, THE AUBURN GAZETTE was first issued by Thomas M. Skinner and William Crosby; through the 19th Century, the newspaper changed hands and names many times; some of those titles were the CAYUGA REPUBLICAN, the AUBURN JOURNAL, the ADVERTISER, the CAYUGA PATRIOT, the DAILY ADVERTISER and the AUBURN UNION; and

WHEREAS, At the onset of the 20th Century, the newspaper was named THE CITIZEN and was principally owned by the Osborne family; in 1931, the newspaper merged with the ADVERTISER to become THE CITIZEN-ADVERTISER; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, Howard Publications bought the newspaper and changed the name back to THE CITIZEN; in 2002, the current proprietors, Lee Enterprises took over ownership of the newspaper; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its renowned 200-year history, THE CITIZEN has told the story of Auburn, showing how it has changed and progressed as a city; and

WHEREAS, In its early years, THE AUBURN GAZETTE was comprised of more advertisements than news stories; the CAYUGA PATRIOT included community events such as the transformation of Auburn from its original settlement as Hardenburgh Corners in 1793, to an actual city; the addition of the prison on State Street and Osborne Works Factory which offered jobs to residents; native son, Secretary of State William H. Seward brought national attention to the city, serving under President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, and Harriet Tubman, the famed organizer of the Underground Railroad, settled here creating a bond which continues today; and

WHEREAS, In 1929, a riot at the Auburn Correctional Facility was the big local story of the year; the outstanding coverage of the melee won THE CITIZEN a Pulitzer Prize, which is still proudly displayed in its downtown Auburn offices; and

WHEREAS, As The Great Depression changed both the Nation and Auburn, THE CITIZEN-ADVERTISER became the lone survivor of all the newspapers that had populated Cayuga County throughout the last Century; and

WHEREAS, In the 1950s, THE CITIZEN-ADVERTISER proclaimed the shocking news that International Harvester was closing its Auburn factory, the start of the decline in manufacturing in the area; and

WHEREAS, In March of 1960, THE CITIZEN-ADVERTISER covered the explosion at a downtown service station, killing three firefighters and two employees; and

WHEREAS, The new decade started with THE CITIZEN-ADVERTISER documenting a prison uprising at the Auburn Correctional Facility; and

WHEREAS, THE CITIZEN-ADVERTISER itself would see many changes in the 1970s; the newspaper built a new facility across Dill Street which opened in 1970, and four years later, the paper stopped publishing on Saturdays and started a Sunday edition highlighted by color comics; by 1976, the newspaper's name would change for the last time, as THE CITIZEN-ADVERTISER became simply, THE CITIZEN; and

WHEREAS, The biggest local story of the 1980s was the disappearance of an Auburn woman, Julie Monson; the discovery of her body in the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge on a Friday was so monumental, THE CITIZEN published a special Saturday edition; and

WHEREAS, Auburnians will remember the early 1990s, for a number of large fires such as the Five Points fire of 1991, the H.R. Wait, and Dunn and McCarthy building blazes in 1993; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, a series of arson fires in Cayuga County and a murder-suicide lead THE CITIZEN to once again publish a special Saturday edition; by the end of the decade, THE CITIZEN would add a regular Saturday edition, its first in 25 years; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, THE CITIZEN was sold by Howard Publications to current owner, Lee Enterprises; under the new ownership, the newspaper continued its tradition of covering big local news stories such as the 2004 opening of Bass Pro Shops at Fingerlakes Mall; and

WHEREAS, In the last few years, the newspaper's website, auburnpub.com has expanded and become a large part of the way THE CITIZEN covers breaking local news; and

WHEREAS, For a generation now, THE CITIZEN has been under the luminous direction of its Executive Editor, Jeremy Boyer, and Publisher, Rob Forcey; maintaining a high quality and relevant paper, they, along with their committed staff, continue to deliver a superior product to all of its readers, and serves as an expressive voice to the people of the City of Auburn region by providing a platform for all members of its community; and

WHEREAS, Our newspapers provide a tremendous service to citizens across the State of New York by keeping them informed about current events; the democracy of our State and Nation is strengthened by a responsible citizenry which is actively engaged in reading and kept abreast of news affecting their lives; and

WHEREAS, As THE CITIZEN moves into the future, it carries with it the .SO DOC A R1424 RESO TEXT 2015 legacy of a distinguished journalistic history and an outstanding record of growth and achievement; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges THE CITIZEN'S distinguished journalist history and its outstanding record of growth and achievement, recognizes its contributions to the local and State economies, and extends its highest commendation to the newspaper and its employees, fully confident that, in its future, it will enjoy the same success which has so characterized its past; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of THE CITIZEN; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jeremy Boyer, Executive Editor, and Rob Forcey, Publisher, THE CITIZEN.