

BY: Senator ROBACH

COMMEMORATING the 40th Anniversary of Willow
Domestic Violence Center on November 1, 2019

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those illustrious organizations of the State of New York whose focus and intent have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their communities; 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 Willow Domestic Violence Center on Friday, November 1, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Rochester; and

WHEREAS, Willow Domestic Violence Center has provided a full-continuum of free and confidential services for the Greater Rochester community for 40 years, reaching more than 7,500 clients directly each year and another 12,000 through prevention education; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization is the only New York State certified domestic violence service provider serving Monroe County; just over half of its clients are from the City of Rochester, and nearly half are from the surrounding suburbs; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, Willow Domestic Violence Center changed its name from Alternatives for Battered Women (ABW) to better reflect the breadth of services it provides and the clients served; and

WHEREAS, Willow Domestic Violence Center's 24/7 Crisis and Support Hotline staff answers 5,000 calls per year, with an average of 20 calls per day; its 49-bed Emergency Residential Shelter provides safety and security for survivors of domestic violence each year, and almost half are children; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the Counseling Program provides individual counseling and support groups for 400 survivors in the community each year and its Court Advocacy Program assists 2,000 survivors each year to obtain legal orders of protection; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to its community, Willow Domestic Violence Center's Prevention Education and Training staff reach over 12,000 students in every school district in Monroe County and on college campuses teaching about healthy relationships; additionally, the program reaches another 2,000 professionals on how to recognize, respond and refer when they see domestic violence in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, Willow Domestic Violence Center prevents domestic violence and ensures every survivor has access to the services and supports needed along the journey to a safe and empowered life; and

WHEREAS, Willow Domestic Violence Center envisions a community free from domestic violence, where healthy relationships thrive; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished 40-year history, Willow Domestic Violence Center has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of Willow Domestic Violence Center is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Willow Domestic Violence Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Willow Domestic Violence Center, Rochester, New York.