

BY: Senator COONEY

MOURNING the death of Sandy Parker, longtime Rochester business community leader, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, have served to better the quality of life in our community and have had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Sandy Parker was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Sandy Parker, noting the significance of her purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Sandy Parker, the longtime head of the former Rochester Business Alliance and one of the most influential forces in the region, died on Saturday, June 5, 2021, at the age of 75; and

WHEREAS, A key player in forming what is now known as the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Sandy Parker, who as head of the nonprofit business organization Industrial Management Council, orchestrated a merger between her group and what was then the Greater Rochester Metro Chamber of Commerce in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of Sandy Parker, the two groups combined the following year to form the Rochester Business Alliance, which was later rebranded as the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, melding the chamber, which promotes local businesses, and the council, which provided human resources services and training to area businesses, effectively made the Rochester Business Alliance a stronger advocate for the area's business community and an influential force in a wide range of community matters, including education policies, publicly-financed construction projects, and skyrocketing health care costs; and

WHEREAS, As President of the newly formed Rochester Business Alliance, Sandy Parker was known as a facilitator and an astute diplomat who was skilled at coaching, cueing and coddling a vast collection of Rochester businesses, from large and small manufacturers to health care companies, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and retailers; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Sandy Parker brokered another merger that saw the alliance absorb the nonprofit business collective, Rump Group, which was headed by local developer and entrepreneur, John "Dutch" Summers, who she would later marry; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as President of the Rochester Business

Alliance, Sandy Parker served with loyalty, honor and distinction, and was renowned for her ability to pull together different sectors of the community, earning the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, An unsung hero in the Greater Rochester community, Sandy Parker contributed her time, resources, and expertise to countless philanthropic and economic development initiatives; in partnership with her husband, her contributions to, and passion for, educational endeavors were unmatched; and

WHEREAS, Countless young minds were shaped and enhanced due to the generosity of this truly extraordinary woman, who saw these kids through from grammar school to their college graduations; she quietly seeded goodness throughout the Rochester community for decades, sitting on dozens of boards and councils, never seeking attention or recognition; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Sandy Parker was a warrior and champion for employers in the Greater Rochester community, helping lead the region through challenging times; she was ever vigilant in ensuring the business community was heard by local leaders and that they responded to the needs of the local economy; and

WHEREAS, Sandy Parker's infinite selflessness and benevolence will shine on through her family's vivid and happy memories; her insight and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love, light and hope to the countless lives she touched; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Sandy Parker leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing woman; she will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Sandy Parker, and to express its deepest condolences to her family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Sandy Parker.