

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

HONORING the brave members of the Bedford Hills Fire Department and Police Department in recognition of their prompt and heroic actions on May 31, 2024

WHEREAS, Citizens across our State and Nation are inspired by and indebted to our noble first responders who exhibit courage and bravery every day in the course of their duties; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the caring concern and heroic acts of individuals who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, nobly risking their own lives in an effort to preserve the life and property of another; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the brave members of the Bedford Hills Fire Department and Police Department in recognition of their prompt and heroic actions on May 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, In the early morning hours of Friday, May 31, 2024, the Westchester County Emergency Communications Center received a 911 call from the resident of a Park Avenue home in Bedford Hills, New York, reporting her house was on fire and that she and her two children were trapped in the smoke and unable to escape; and

WHEREAS, Once Bedford patrol units quickly arrived on the scene, they found a 35-year-old woman in distress hanging out of a small bathroom window; the woman told officers that her two children were still trapped inside the home; and

WHEREAS, Bedford Hills Fire Department's 1st Assistant Chief Patierno, along with Bedford Police Officers Jordan Baschnagel, Ronald Sauber, and Joseph Sagliano forced a door off the rear porch where they faced heavy smoke; and

WHEREAS, Despite limited visibility, they followed the sounds of a 10-year-old child crying out from just inside the doorway in the kitchen and were able to pull him out of the smoke-filled house; in an effort to locate the second child, officers began breaking windows and removing air conditioner units; and

WHEREAS, Without hesitation and despite not being able to see through thick smoke, these brave men followed the faint cry coming from an elevated window, climbed a small ledge, and were able to access the window, removing the terrified 9-year-old boy; and

WHEREAS, The woman and her two children were taken to Westchester County Medical Center by the Katonah-Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps where they were treated for smoke inhalation; the Bedford Hills

Fire Department maintained the scene and quickly put out the fire; and

WHEREAS, In addition to acknowledging the Bedford Hills Fire Department and Police Department, members of the Katonah-Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Westchester Emergency Medical Services, and the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services actively assisted in the rescue and should be meritoriously commended for their sacrifices and selfless dedication; and

WHEREAS, These heroic first responders have consistently demonstrated a level of commitment, dedication, integrity, and professionalism which truly exemplifies the finest traditions of the Bedford Hills Fire and Police Departments; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that we should give special recognition to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities, and acknowledge publicly the heroic actions performed by the courageous first responders of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the brave members of the Bedford Hills Fire Department and Police Department in recognition of their prompt and heroic actions on May 31, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Bedford Hills Fire Department and Police Department.