

BY: M. of A. Buttenschon

COMMENDING the Utica Lions Club upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary on February 8, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those fraternal organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Utica Lions Club upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary on February 8, 2024, to be celebrated on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at the Burrstone Inn Grand Ballroom, New Hartford, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Utica Lions Club was chartered on February 8, 1924, and adheres to the Lions mission to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to helping others, the Utica Lions Club supports the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI), Freedom Guide Dogs, American Diabetes Association, Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL), Lions Hearing Conservation Program, and the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, Encouraging community involvement, the Utica Lions Club hosts fundraising efforts such as the White Canes Donation Annual Holiday Raffle, Journey for Sight Walk, Bottle and Can Drive, Special Interest Dinner, and the Utica Lions Bowl-A-Thon; the Club also organizes the Christmas Party, Community events for the blind and visually impaired, providing eye exams and glasses/hearing aids for those in need, Collection of Eye Glasses and Hearing Aids, and even yearly scholarship awards to T.R. Proctor High School and Notre Dame High School top students; and

WHEREAS, The current officers and members of the Utica Lions Club include: President and Secretary, Antonetta Panuccio; Vice President, Dr. Peter Yarosz; Treasurer, Dr. Allen Zuck; Membership, Raymond Collins, Amy Lindsey, William Doble, Carl Gage, Howard Heffron, Frank Marfone, and Timothy and Jane O'Connor; and

WHEREAS, The Utica Lions Club is part of Lions Clubs International, one of the largest service organizations in the world, and is deeply committed to meeting the challenges of public service; currently, there are approximately 46,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographic areas around the world; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1917 by Melvin Jones, Lions are also recognized worldwide for their service to the blind and visually impaired; this

service began when Helen Keller challenged the Lions to become her "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness" during the Lions' 1925 International Convention; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Utica Lions Club is in direct correlation to the efforts of its members, 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 sense 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 commend the Utica Lions Club upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary, and to honor its members, past and present, who have labored so conscientiously to secure and improve the quality of life in the community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Utica Lions Club.