Assembly Resolution No. 1097

BY: M. of A. Buttenschon

HONORING Deputy Chief Joseph Cieslak upon the occasion of his retirement after 23 years of distinguished service to the Utica Fire Department

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Deputy Chief Joseph Cieslak upon the occasion of his retirement after 23 years of distinguished service to the Utica Fire Department on Sunday, March 15, 2026; and

WHEREAS, The firefighters of New York State are renowned throughout the Nation; their reputation is synonymous with excellence in the arduous field of fire protection and prevention; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Cieslak began his professional firefighting career at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, New York at the age of 19; he was appointed to the Bureau of Fire in June of 2002; and

WHEREAS, Initially assigned to Utica Fire Department's Central Station, Joseph Cieslak later moved to Oneida Square and then Tactical Unit 1; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, Joseph Cieslak was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, serving over nine years in the city's busiest firehouse, Oneida Square; in this position, he was responsible for the teaching and training some of the strongest firefighters in the Utica Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Following years of valiant and commendable service, Lieutenant Joseph Cieslak was promoted to the rank of Captain in 2018; he served as Captain of Training for the Fire Academy and assisted in molding the futures of hundreds of heroic firefighters throughout his esteemed career; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, this noble firefighter was promoted to the rank of deputy chief and was assigned to the 4th Platoon before returning to the 2nd Platoon in 2025; and

WHEREAS, For the past 23 years, Deputy Chief Joseph Cieslak rendered faithful, conscientious, and valuable service to the Utica Fire Department, earning the admiration, esteem, and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as Deputy Chief, Joseph Cieslak served with loyalty, honor, and distinction, and was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems in his official

acts; and

WHEREAS, It takes a special dedication, a strong desire to help others, and a tireless sense of community to forsake precious time with family and friends to respond to the signal that a neighbor is in need; Deputy Chief Joseph Cieslak is one such firefighter; throughout 23 years of devoted service, he heroically performed, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Deputy Chief Joseph Cieslak upon the occasion of his retirement after 23 years of distinguished service to the Utica Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Deputy Chief Joseph Cieslak.