

**ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, February 3, 2014

The Common Council was convened at 7:00 p.m. and was called to order by Council President McLaughlin.

The roll being called, the following answered to their names: Council Members Applyrs, Bailey, Commisso, Conti, Doeschate, Fahey, Flynn, Golby, Herring, Igoe, Kimbrough, Kornegay, Krasher, O'Brien and Robinson.

Also present were the following staff: Nala Woodard, Patrick Jordan, Barbara Samel and Cashawna Parker.

Council Member Kimbrough led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Pro Tempore Conti asked and received majority consent to add Resolution Number 14.21.14R to the agenda, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

President Pro Tempore Conti made a motion to change the order of business to allow for the consideration of Resolution Number 14.21.14R, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Council Member Robinson introduced RESOLUTION NUMBER 14.21.14R, asked for passage and a roll call vote thereon:

Resolution Number 14.21.14R

RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF OSMOND ELISHA HARRIS

WHEREAS, Osmond "Kenneth" Harris was born on December 18, 1945 on the island of Jamaica, West Indies, to parents Icyline Cruickshank-Harris and Joseph Harris. He immigrated to the United States and moved to Albany in 1972, where he worked as a cleaner, hotel clerk and in a fish store; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth was always passionate about cooking and started cooking in his apartment on weekends and selling the food to friends. His Arbor Hill apartment would be filled with Caribbean expatriates gathered to play dominoes, speak patois and savor home-style cooking. He soon saved enough money to purchase a van and traveled to hospitals and college campuses to sell food; and

WHEREAS, in 1980 he opened Kenneth's Tastebud Restaurant on Henry Johnson Boulevard. In 2002 he moved to a newly renovated building two blocks away. It was the Capital Region's first Jamaican restaurant and for three decades became a de facto community center. On weekends, the restaurant hosted parties that catered to Albany's vibrant Afro-Caribbean community and Harris liked to step out of the kitchen and work the turntables as a DJ; and

WHEREAS, over the years Kenneth received numerous awards for being the first Caribbean/Jamaican businessman in the entire area and was featured in various newspapers; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth was well-known, well-loved and well-respected by the people of his community and the people who frequented his restaurant. He was a generous and fun-loving man. His generosity benefited many people in the community including his siblings who immigrated to the United States after him. He loved to sing reggae, calypso, and American R&B and celebrate his Jamaican heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Albany Common Council recognizes the contributions of Osmond "Kenneth" Harris to this City and to the community and mourns the passing of this spirited and talented restaurateur.

**Note: Council Member Robinson and President McLaughlin spoke on this resolution prior to passage.*

The resolution passed by the following vote of all the Council Members elected voting in favor thereof:
Affirmative – Applyrs, Bailey, Commisso, Conti, Doesschate, Fahey, Flynn, Golby, Herring, Igoe, Kimbrough, Kornegay, Krasher, O’Brien, and Robinson

Affirmative 15 Negative 0 Abstain 0

Resolution Number 14.21.14R was co-sponsored by Council Members Applyrs, Bailey, Commisso, Conti, Doesschate, Fahey, Flynn, Golby, Herring, Igoe, Kimbrough, Kornegay, Krasher and O’Brien.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

1. Marlon Anderson, 491 Livingston Ave., Albany, NY 12206 (Oil heating facility/Lack of information);
2. Darlene McGraw, 15 Western Avenue, Albany, NY (Safety Ideas).

There being no further speakers, the President declared the Public Comment Period closed.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL LAWS

The local laws on the agenda were held at the request of President Pro Tempore Conti.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Parks, Recreation and Family Services – Chairperson Fahey stated that the committee met on January 29, 2014 immediately following caucus to discuss Resolution Number 8.12.14R relating to the appointment of Jonathan Jones as Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Workforce Services. Committee Members asked questions and brought up concerns about the City of Albany youth programs. Mr. Jones discussed being familiar with grants and has experience working with youth in the community. The resolution was favorably recommended out of committee.

Finance, Taxation, and Assessment – Chairperson Commisso stated that the committee would be meeting on February 5, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. to interview Board of Assessment Review applicants and additionally at 5:30 p.m. to discuss Resolution Number 11.21.14R in relation to the New York State Financial Restructuring Board for local governments.

Planning, Economic Development and Land Use – Chairperson Herring stated that the committee met on January 29, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. prior to caucus to discuss Resolution Number 10.12.14R appointing Albert De Salvo to the Planning Board, which was referred out of committee with a favorable recommendation. He stated that the committee would be meeting on February 4, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. to interview applicants to the Albany Industrial Development Agency/Capital Resource Corporation

General Services, Health and Environment – Chairperson O’Brien stated that the committee would be meeting on February 6, 2014 to discuss Resolution Number 9.12.14R in relation to the appointment of Joseph E. Coffey, Jr. as the commissioner of the Water Department.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

The ordinances on the agenda were held at the request of President Pro Tempore Conti.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Commisso introduced RESOLUTION NUMBER 11.21.14R, which was referred to the Finance, Taxation and Assessment Committee.

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL REQUESTING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW BY THE NEW YORK STATE FINANCIAL RESTRUCTURING BOARD FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, the City of Albany is a Fiscally Eligible Municipality based on the criteria established under the New York State Local Finance Law and qualifies to request a Comprehensive Review by the Financial Restructuring Board for Local Governments; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Albany understands that the Financial Restructuring Board has the ability to undertake a Comprehensive Review of the City of Albany's operations, finances and practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Common Council of the City of Albany requests a Comprehensive Review by the New York State Financial Restructuring Board for Local Governments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all documents and instruments necessary to fulfill the City of Albany's obligations under the Financial Restructuring Board's Comprehensive Review.

Council Member Bailey introduced RESOLUTION NUMBER 12.21.14R, asked for passage and a roll call vote thereon:

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2014 AND HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS TO THE NATION AND THE CITY OF ALBANY

WHEREAS, African-Americans have provided much labor, intellect, creativity, strength and leadership that has made the United States of America a great place to live and a leader in the attainment of freedom and justice in the modern world, and

WHEREAS, African-Americans have also supplied much of the labor, intellect, creativity, strength and leadership that built the City of Albany and its many neighborhoods and communities since colonial times and played a major role in the justice and freedom seeking activities of the Underground Railroad, and

WHEREAS, the extraordinary role of African-Americans in the nation as a whole and Albany in particular has too often been overlooked by both well-meaning individuals and those blinded by the legacy of racism left in the wake of our nation's history of slavery and bondage, and

WHEREAS, despite the many obstacles placed in the way of generations of African-Americans, they have proven their ability to keep the dream of freedom and racial justice alive by constantly striving to overcome those who would limit their educational and economic opportunities by restricting their choices and limiting their options through the use of Jim Crow laws, poll taxes and other restrictions, and

WHEREAS, the sacrifices and successes of those many generations of African-Americans led to the establishment of churches known for their religious leadership, the founding of historically black colleges and universities responsible for educating millions throughout the nation, entrepreneurs who have created thousands of jobs, and the flourishing of a rich cultural and artistic heritage that has contributed greatly to our nation and beyond, and

WHEREAS, efforts to restrict the rights of African-Americans have continued to this day and the struggle against racism remains a crucial battle throughout our nation generally and the City of Albany specifically that is directly relevant to our communities, and

WHEREAS, the intellect, creativity and leadership of African-Americans throughout the City of Albany's history remains a largely untold story and it is important for all residents of our City to become familiar with it, and

WHEREAS, Black History Month celebrations raise awareness and have proven to be valuable tools in drawing attention to contributions made by African-Americans to the United States, and

WHEREAS, it is important for the Common Council, as the legislative body that represents all residents of the City of Albany to commemorate the valuable contributions of African-Americans to the city and the nation, and

WHEREAS, the 1st Ward is proud to recognize Bill and Carolyn Law as it's honoree for the 2014 Black History Month celebration. Bill and Carolyn moved to Albany in 1971 from a nearby suburban area. They chose to purchase a home in the Mt. Hope Townhouse Development because of the diversity (racially and economically) profile of the neighborhood. Together they managed the Food-Coop that operated in the SENCAP facility on South Pearl Street. This offered South-End residents fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs and bread at wholesale prices. Carolyn was a Head Start volunteer, served as a volunteer instructor in sewing at St Anne's , Van-Hyden and Trinity, and volunteered at Trinity teaching home-making skills to women. She tutored reading and math at School 23 and was a volunteer at Giffin Elementary School. During the summer, she taught arts, crafts, cooking and sewing at St. Joseph's. She was also a Cherry Hill volunteer helping with proof-reading and conducting tours. She also organized play groups in the neighborhood. Bill served on the Board of Directors for PAD (Parents Against Drugs) and was a member the PIMEG (Program to Increase Minority Engineering Graduates) team. He also served as Project Director for Project Mercury, a program to train inner-city disadvantaged young people chemical technician skills. He also helped to organize a Community Defense Fund to assist defendants with legal expenses. Bill has served as the Mt. Hope Neighborhood Association President and currently serves as Vice-President. He has also tutored and encouraged neighborhood youth in math and science, and

WHEREAS, the 2nd Ward applauds the commitment and service of and Clara Philips. Clara Phillips, was born in Waynesboro, Mississippi. She moved to Albany, New York in 1964. She is the loving mother of 4 children, has 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, and has been a foster parent for the last two years. She retired from Albany Medical Center after 36 years of service as a food service supervisor. Ms Clara (as she is affectionately known to the community that loves her) joined AVillage, Inc. in July 2009, becoming the first official member, and she has remained a dedicated member for the last 4 years. She is co/chair and co/founder of AVillage, Inc. Annual "Mississippi Day." An event that brings the community together, to celebrate those who migrated to Albany from Mississippi. "Ms. Clara is a dedicated community servant and works tirelessly to bring positive change to the beloved city of Albany that she chose to make her home over 60 years ago, and

WHEREAS, the 3rd Ward proudly nominates Keith Love as it's 2013 Black History Month Honoree. Mr. Love was born and raised in Albany and is a graduate of Albany High School. He has been a local barber for over twenty years and is currently the owner and operator of Love's Cut. Mr. Love is a member of the Metropolitan New Mission Baptist Church and is a strong believer in giving back to the community. He provides free haircuts to the community at the Annual Metropolitan New Mission Baptist Church Bazaar for children getting ready to go back to school. Mr. Love is a strong, quiet pillar of the 3rd Ward. He is married to Andrea Love, and

WHEREAS, the 4th Ward nominates and honors John Theodore Harris. Mr. Harris holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the State University at Albany. John started working in the Albany City School District as a Teaching Assistant, then as a Computer TA and as a Home School Coordinator at Albany High School until his retirement. Prior to being assigned to Albany High School, John developed the Family Resource and Support Center at Giffen Elementary School for students, parents and community members. He takes great pride in his ability to work and collaborate with community organizations, which bring much needed resources to the children and families he serves. Through his success in the creation of the Resource Center,

steps were taken to replicate his work throughout the Albany City School District. At Albany High School, John created a mentoring program for students that focuses on academics, self-esteem, conflict resolution and taking pride in themselves and their community. The mentoring program was recently recognized in a Proclamation from Governor Andrew Cuomo. Plans are currently underway to implement a Capital District Male Mentoring Program that will focus on young men from Albany, Schenectady and Troy, NY. John is a member of the NAACP, Albany YMCA Black & Latino Achievers Steering Committee, Coalition of Black Trade Unions (Capital District Chapter), the National Association of Black Social Workers, Board Member of Father's Inc., Board Member for Schenectady Youth Boxing, Peaceful Warriors, and serves as President for the Albany, NY Affiliate of the National Black Child Development Institute. In addition, John volunteers at the Schenectady City Mission working with families to build bridges out of poverty. Most importantly, he is an Ordained Deacon at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. John has served as Board President for Chocolate Thunder Marching and Dancing Band, Albany City School District Diversity Council and a former Member of the Albany South End Action Committee. John enjoys working with children, and those who have become victims of society, especially those who would be considered "vulnerable or at risk." He adds, "I understand that it is only by the Grace of God, that I have been able to go through life's obstacles and come out unharmed. Therefore, I have a responsibility to show others, that they too can receive God's Grace and know that All Things Are Possible, if you only believe." John holds numerous awards including the "Unsung Hero" award from the New York State Center for School Safety, the Albany Chapter of the NAACP "Visions For Life Award", Vanessa Imelda Johnson "Community Mobilization" Award, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church "You Make A Difference" Award, Urban Voices Community Collaborations Award, The Johnson Communications Award for Community Service, The Capital District YMCA Black & Latino Community Partner Award and the SUNY NAACP Trailblazers award for community service. John is the son of the late Edward (Pee Wee) Harris and Josephine Parson Faulkner. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Gail Tanksley Harris and has a son, David. He enjoys reading, sports and music. His favorite Biblical teacher is Job. His favorite song is Faith and his greatest accomplishments are getting married, having the opportunity to work with children and joining the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. His favorite quote is from Jackie Robinson "A life is not important, except in the impact it has on others", and

WHEREAS, the 5th Ward proudly nominates Minister Justice Barnes as it's 2013 Black History Month Honoree. Minister Justice Barnes was born in Utica, New York but grew up in Albany, New York. He has made significant contributions to our community. He has owned and opened four bookstores in the Albany area in the last 17 years. Minister Justice Barnes is known in the community as the "Minister of Information" empowering our youth and people in general with truth and direction. He has been involved in many aspects of the community and always addressing community issues and concerns. He started an Annual Family Day Cookout and an Annual Save the Babies Day. In 1997, he opened his first bookstore "Page One Bookstore." In 2007, he founded and was the director of the Youth Empowerment Movement. It's mission statement was "Empowering our youth in change and guidance, for they are the greatest!" He has worked hard in the community to raise the level of awareness in many different areas of life with our youth with many events being done by the Youth Empowerment Movement such as Children Recognition Day, Children Awareness Day, Youth Leadership Bunch, Youth Poetry Slam and Youth Chess Tournaments. Many youth in the Arbor Hill area support and are involved in the activities and events of the Youth Empowerment Movement. Minister Justice Barnes has dedicated over 30 years work for the betterment of our youth. He is always teaching the knowledge of self to the community. A minister in spiritual empowerment, he's always teaching on some subject or something of importance. As a minister, he is always helping with someone's growth and development. Throughout his journey in the path on truth and righteousness, he has been in many halls of learning and it has brought him friendships in all walks of life. In 2012, Minister Justice Barnes created the Conscious Mind Series that evolved into the Conscious Mind Movement, which is a movement to raise the awareness of our people. The CMM has produced events such as "Meeting of the Minds" Part I: Unity, Community Concerns and Working with Our Youth, "Meeting of the Minds" Part II: Leadership Principles and empowering Our Youth in Change, "Meeting of the Minds" Part III: Teaching Out Youth Manhood and womanhood Principles. Minister Justice Barnes is also a boxing trainer and loves the sport of boxing. He has been active in the City of Albany Boxing Program for over 20 years, working with many local fighters from the

Albany area such as Tony Marshall, Rick Thomas, Damon Holt and Jaamel Eaddy. He loves and enjoys giving back what he knows and sharing what he has been through in life. Minister Justice Barnes thanks everyone that has been a part of his life's journey. Each person, event and situation has helped him to become the person he is today because each day he lives, he's still growing, and

WHEREAS, the 6th Ward recognizes Penelope Andrews during Black History Month. Ms. Andrews is the school's 17th president and dean, effective July 1, 2012. Andrews is the first female president for the school since it opened in 1851. Previously Dean Andrews was the associate dean for academic affairs and professor of law at City University of New York School of Law. Prior to joining CUNY, she was a professor of law and director of international studies at Valparaiso Law School, where she taught courses such as International Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law.

Dean Andrews, who was born and raised in South Africa, has extensive international experience, including teaching at law schools in Germany, Australia, Holland, Scotland, Canada and South Africa. An annual award in her name—The Penelope E. Andrews Human Rights Award—was inaugurated in 2005 at the South African law school of University of KwaZulu-Natal. Along with numerous other awards, she holds a “Women of South Africa Achievement Award,” as well as Albany Law’s Kate Stoneman Award, which she received in 2002. She grew up in apartheid South Africa, fighting for equal rights. Her writing centers on justice for women and people of color across the globe, and she believes that all human struggles for dignity and equality are international in character. Asked about her passions, she cites the education of our future lawyers, where she sees it critical that a law school compels students to reach their highest potential. In 2005 she was a finalist for a vacancy on the Constitutional Court of South Africa, the highest court in South Africa on constitutional matters. She has consulted for the United Nations Development Fund for Women, and for the Ford Foundation in Johannesburg, where she evaluated labor law programs. She earned her B.A. and LL.B from the University of Natal, Durban, South Africa, and her LL.M from Columbia University School of Law, New York, and

WHEREAS, the 7th Ward proudly selects Alton B. Franklin of Hurlbut Street as their honoree for Black History Month. Pastor Franklin has a long history of dedication to his family, faith and community. Pastor Franklin is a graduate of the Payne Theological Institute and has served as Associate Pastor of the Elijah Missionary Church for the past 12 years. He has helped to sponsor a summer camp and the Toys for Tots program for the past 15 years. He has also helped to provide needy families with food and gifts during the holidays at the church for the past 15 years. Pastor Franklin has lived in the City of Albany since the age of 7 and remembers serving as a life guard at Lincoln Park Pool. He has been married to Vivian Franklin for the past 30 years and has four grown sons and a daughter. We are very fortunate that Pastor Franklin resides in the 7th ward neighborhood and is most deserving of this honor, and

WHEREAS, the 8th Ward recognizes William "Curtis" Wilkins Curtis was born and raised in North Carolina and then moved to Albany at 12 years old. He attended public schools in Albany, including Albany High School, where he participated in basketball and cross country. He then pursued his education to SUNY Brockport, where he majored in Physical Education and Health. He played collegiate basketball and traveled to Paris where he competed against the International Professional Basketball League. In 1984, he married his wife, Kimberly, and together they have 2 beautiful daughters, Lauren Jasmine and Kasmira Yalonda. In 1994, Curtis became an active member of Walls Temple A.M.E. Zion Church where he is the Chairman of Trustee Board, Building Fund and the youth Sunday lesson teacher. He was a basketball coach for Blessed Sacrament for numerous years where he taught children the fundamentals of basketball. Curtis is a tremendous neighbor who takes pride in his neighborhood by keeping his property spectacular. Curtis is a true gentleman and the 8th Ward is proud to honor William “Curtis” Wilkins as the 8th Ward’s recipient for his contributions to the youth of Albany and his dedication to improving the quality of life of its neighborhoods, through his hard work on his property, and

WHEREAS, the 9th Ward is proud to recognize and honor Rene T. Dixon. Ms. Dixon was born and educated at Charles Evan Hughes High School in New York City and moved to Albany in 1992. Her mom and

dad always told her to work hard for whatever you want in life and never let anyone tell you “that you can never do anything.” “Never” is a word that René tries very hard to never use. René is the proud mother of two sons, Calvin, who is 29 and lives in Maryland with his wife Takirra, and Christian, who is 17 and currently a senior at Albany High School. Ms. Dixon has been a tireless volunteer and advocate for Albany’s students, schools and the neediest members of our community. Ms. Dixon is currently serving her second year as Co-President of the Albany High School Parent Teacher/Student Association where she has helped reinvigorate the organization and parent involvement. She has been a regular contributor to PTAs ever since her son attended ASH Elementary School where she assisted with the school banking program, helped coordinate the 6th Grade Graduation Trip, helped out at school whenever possible and chaperoned school trips whenever needed. Ms. Dixon even continued to assist with the school banking program after her son graduated from ASH. Ms. Dixon is also an active participant in the Albany City School District Booster Club. She has taken on the enormous task of purchasing supplies for the concession stands run by the Booster Club and staffs the concession stand at virtually all football games and basketball games. At the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, a/k/a New York State Homes and Community Renewal, where Ms. Dixon has worked for the last 37 ½ years, she has taken charge of the agency’s Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program and the Martin Luther King Jr. Food Drive, served as Chairperson of the agency’s Employee Assistance Program and helped coordinate the SEFA campaign. We are thankful for all of René’s outstanding work on behalf of Albany students and residents in need, and are pleased to have this opportunity to recognize her as an exemplary citizen and resident of Albany’s 9th Ward in 2013, and

WHEREAS, the 10th Ward is proud to recognize and honor Roslyn Jefferson. Roslyn Jefferson, a second generation Albanian, was born in Albany, New York, at Albany Medical Center, where she currently is employed as the Employee Assistance Program Coordinator. Her father's family moved to Albany from North Carolina as part of the legendary migration. When she was born, her father, Dr. Samuel Jefferson, had a dental office on lower Hudson Ave., which was since demolished to build the Empire State Plaza. He was only one of two African American dentists in the City of Albany at the time. Her mother was a school teacher at School #7 and Phillip Livingston during her childhood, demanding respect and high expectations of her students. Roslyn was blessed to grow up in an environment that valued learning and education and culture. Her parents purchased a house near the outskirts of Albany and were the only African American family in the neighborhood. Only as an adult did Roslyn learn that her family received anonymous threatening calls when moving there in the late 1950's. Her parents were both early members of Albany NAACP and Urban League and the Interracial Council. Even the great Mrs. Rosa Parks stayed at their house, when Roslyn's mother was pregnant with her, as a guest when touring the country sponsored by the NAACP and there was no budgetary money to put her up in a hotel. Roslyn graduated from Milne High School. She graduated from Syracuse University, where she pledged into the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Directly after college, she went on to obtain her Masters Degree in Social Work from Columbia University. She had her first exposure working with people in poverty with addictions, and began to realize the full blessings of her solid stable childhood where her parents had high expectations of her, and the resources to support her. In the mid-1980's she sought out training to become a Kripalu certified yoga instructor and taught yoga, meditation and spirituality groups for several years in the Captial District area. She volunteered as the Teacher Coordinator for 4 years, responsible for planning the schedule of the Capital District's first yoga center. Roslyn has had a 34 year career as a clinical Social Worker. During the 1990's she joined with some fellow therapists to form a business to focus on clients of color, The NIA Center. Her career journey has included being a medical social worker in the South Bronx; she was part of a pilot initiative at Parson's Child and Family Center in their Minority Adoption Program where the goal was to find and complete homestudies on African American and Latino families and place older, minority children who needed homes with them. She was selected to be part of an initial program for the Minority Fellowship program at the Department of Health. After that she was the Director of the Equinox Drug Counseling program, and this became an entry into treatment of recovering clients. Around this time she began private practice psychotherapy work with Dr. Patricia O'Gorman. She has had a successful private practice of psychotherapy for the past 25 plus years. She also has a vivid interest in the interface between work life and personal life, and has been the Employee Assistance Coordinator at the University at Albany and now, currently at Albany Medical Center, serving 8000 employees. She was Director of the Problem Gambling Center and has

served on the Board of the New York Council of Problem Gambling for the past six years. She served on the Columbia University Alumni Board, is a member of the Albany Chapter of the Girl Friends, and is a member of the Capital District Employee Assistance Program Association and served as the president for 2 years. Roslyn became a 10th Ward Committee person in 2013, and started becoming active with SNUG neighborhood activities in 2013 as well. Her proudest career achievement is having been able to touch the lives of perhaps 1500+ individuals through the healing art of counseling - this has included being a therapist with those from an economically disadvantaged population, clients with economic resources, people of all cultures and ages, families and couples. She realizes it has been an extraordinary gift to be a witness to people's most private, inner workings. Roslyn's personal proudest accomplishment has been raising her son, Noah who is now 20 years of age. She is a dyed-in-the-wool soccer mom for the past 15 years, having traveled around the country attending Noah's elite level soccer tournaments. She now derives so much pleasure from currently watching him play Division 1 Soccer at Syracuse University, and

WHEREAS, the 11th Ward is privileged to have the opportunity to honor Ms. Gradia Melrose Goldma Gbarbea. Born February 8, 1960 in Firestone, Liberia. Her parents are Edna Earl James and James Y. Gbarbea, Sr. Her mother is a devoted member of the Methodist Church and her father held several political positions including a Superintendent/Governor, legislator from Bong County and Advisor to the President in the Liberian government. Growing up Gradia was close to her mom. Because she was the oldest she helped her mother take care of her younger sisters as well as set the example in her studies. She is very close to her grandmother, Mardea Kemah who was never formally educated but instilled in her the value of getting an education. Gradia was an honor student, always at the top of her class and was very active in church and the local community in Liberia. She attended the University of Liberia where she received her Bachelor's in Economics. As a graduation present, her parents sent her on a tour of a few East African nations. In Tanzania she climbed to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro and she also learned Swahili. In her young adult years she traveled back and forth to the US and Europe from Liberia, learning a great deal from a variety of cultures. She moved to the U.S. in 1986 to join her husband and settled in Charlotte, NC. She was very involved with the American Red Cross. She helped to bring some of her family members from Liberia to the USA. After a couple of years she conceived her daughter, Mameni. When Mameni was four Ms. Gbarbea decided to move to Albany in 1993. Gradia enrolled in the Nelson A. Rockefeller School of Public Affairs & Policy at SUNY Albany. During her graduate studies, she co-published an article "Freedom and Trade" with the National Research Council. After Gradia received her Master's in Political Science in 1994. Ms. Gbarbea continued classes to earn her doctoral degree in political science and international relations. During this time, she was a Fellow at the Center for Women in Government. In January 1996 she suffered from a traumatic brain injury when she slipped on a wet floor. This accident changed how Gradia would live the rest of her life. The doctors told her that she would not be able to live a "normal" life. But that did not stop Ms. Gbarbea and she persevered. Even though she has not been able to "live" the life she had planned for herself due to the injury, she managed to make a name for herself and define her version of normal. In July of 1996 she received a special Certificate of Merit from the Center for Women in Government for her strength, perseverance and stamina in the face of adversity. In 2002, she and her mother started the Mardea Kemah Center, school and clinic in her hometown in Lower Careysburg, Liberia in her grandmother's memory. The mission of the center was to empower the community post-war Liberia. Grounded by her faith in God and the love for her country she found herself very active, health permitting, in the church community in the Capital Area as well the African Community. In (2000) she organized the Liberian-American Association of the Capital District (LAACD) and was its president for four years. Through her vision, LAACD gave a face to Liberians in the Capital District and in the local communities. Her passion has always been helping others; that is how she was raised. She found herself doing refugee resettlement and immigration assistance with the Inter Religious Council of Central New York. She also worked part-time at Madison Avenue Baptist Church. She has been honored and recognized by several organizations in the community including the Capital Area Council of Churches where she served as Executive Secretary and board member, and the Special Mission's Recognition by the United Methodist Women. As a quiet advocate and humanitarian who continues to advocate for the rights of others, she believes that 'Lions don't have to roar.' Today, Ms. Gbarbea volunteers with Focus Ministries focusing on the Hunger Action Network, is an active member of the Trinity United Methodist Church and the

Careysburg Association of Northern American, an organization that uplifts the welfare of their community in Liberia. She is very passionate about the rights of immigrants and refugees. For Ms. Gradia Melrose Gbarbea, receiving this award is not only an honor from man, it is an honor from God, as she believes that God chooses those whom He ordains man to honor. She also passionately believes that the history of America is not complete without telling the history of Liberia and that so is the history of African-Americans ... it is incomplete without telling the history of Liberians. These two are inextricably linked. This is the story she tells of Liberia and being honored for Black History Month is appropriately telling of her story, and

WHEREAS, the 12th Ward recognizes and honors Patrick O. Dalzell as the Ward's Honoree for 2013 African-American History Month. Patrick O. Dalzell migrated from the country of Guyana in South America forty-four years ago, to adapt to a new life in the United States of America, in Brooklyn New York. Subsequently he relocated to Albany. Patrick's educational qualifications include a B.S. Economics-Management from Sage College Albany New York and an M.B.A. from Long Island University Brooklyn, New York. His career has included mid and senior level management positions in both the private and public sectors. At Key Bank he was a Retail Collections Officer. At the Albany County Department of Health, he was a Fiscal Management Officer. He was an Assistant Vice President at Fleet Boston Financial Services and a Director of Purchasing and Auxiliary Services at the College of Saint Rose as well as at Pace University. He was an Associate Controller at the City University of New York Central Administration. Patrick has many community and civic involvements. These include volunteering at the College of Saint Rose in Equal Opportunities for Higher Education, and multiculturalism encouraging African American students to stay in school. He has spearheaded cultural diversity programs for acclimatization to international students. He has provided pastoral service at the Albany City Rescue Mission, conducted chapel services and educational development programs, and taught mathematics to students enabling them to complete the GED. Patrick is actively involved in local politics as an elected Albany County Democratic Party Committee Member. He has served as a commission member on the Albany County Charter Review Commission. Patrick has been married to his wife Myrtle Dalzell for forty-three years. They have three sons, and a daughter, and ten grandchildren, and

WHEREAS, the 14th Ward is privileged to have the opportunity to honor Sgt. William Flack. Seargent Flack was born White Plains New York and in 1987, at 15, was sent to LaSalle School for Boys in Albany. He spent four years at LaSalle with his final year being part of an independent living program where he attended Bishop Maginn High School and was a member of the graduating class of 1991. In 1994, he married life long Albany resident Kelly Ruth, and they have two children. On January 17, 1997 he was sworn in as a member of the Albany Police Department. During the last 17 years with the department he has served as a member of the City of Albany Police Departments recruitment team (6 years), it's EAP (12 years) and Critical Incident Management Team (3 years) assisting in the writing of both units SOP's. He has also served as primary instructor for the Zone Five Regional Law Enforcement Academy, as well as several occasions as an instructor for the State of New York Attorney General's office, instructing courses in cultural diversity, biased/hate based crimes, and sexual-harassment in the workplace. He received a life saving medal for subduing a person attempting to harm himself by filling his apartment with gas and threatening to ignite the gas, as well as a Letter of Commendation for assisting in talking a city resident from jumping off a rooftop on Columbia Street in the city. He also is a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and has helped build several homes in the Albany area, one being on Third Street across from the Ten Broeck Mansion, and

WHEREAS, the 15th Ward applauds the commitment and service of The Lumpkin Family. William and Maggie Lumpkin settled in Albany on Jefferson Street in the late 1930's. William Lumpkin, originally from Georgia, was a partner at Orange Body Works and also worked at the Watervliet Arsenal. Maggie Lumpkin, originally from North Carolina, worked for many years at Williams Press and was one of the charter members of Wilburn Temple. Wilburn Temple first operated out of a storefront on Jay Street and grew to become one of Albany's largest churches. The Lumpkin family grew so large in Albany that the family purchased and settled in a second home on Jefferson Street shortly after their arrival in Albany. Milton Lumpkin, one of 14 children,

began his 35 year career as a mail handler with the United States Postal Service in Albany in 1970. After many dedicated years of service, Milton retired in 2005 as a supervisor. Milton currently resides on Wellington Avenue in Albany's 15th Ward. Milton's nephew, Ronald Bailey, is beginning his second term as a member of the Albany Common Council. Above all else, Milton is a respected and trusted neighbor and member of the community. It is a pleasure to have Milton accept the 15th Ward designation as honoree for the Albany Common Council's celebration of Black History Month on behalf of the Lumpkin Family.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albany Common Council, acting on behalf of all the people of the City of Albany, hereby commemorates February 2014 as Black History Month, and pauses in its deliberation to honor the sacrifices and contributions made by African-Americans.

BE, IT FURTHER, RESOLVED, that the Common Council honors all of the nominees in recognition of their leadership, service, and contributions to civic life throughout the City of Albany.

**Note: President McLaughlin spoke on this resolution prior to passage.*

The resolution passed by the following vote of all the Council Members elected voting in favor thereof:
Affirmative – Applrys, Bailey, Commisso, Conti, Doesschate, Fahey, Flynn, Golby, Herring, Igoe, Kimbrough, Kornegay, Krasher, O'Brien, and Robinson

Affirmative 15 Negative 0 Abstain 0

Resolution Number 12.21.14R was co-sponsored by Council Members Applrys, Commisso, Conti, Doesschate, Fahey, Flynn, Golby, Herring, Igoe, Kimbrough, Kornegay, Krasher, O'Brien and Robinson

Council Member Conti introduced RESOLUTION NUMBER 13.21.14R, asked for passage and roll call vote thereon:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL CONSENTING TO THE CREATION OF AN OPERATION ENGINEER POSITION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, Section 604(D)(b) of the Charter of the City of Albany dictates that any salary changes that occur in the City of Albany outside of those described in the duly adopted budget must be consented to by the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the needs of the Department of General Services requires an additional Operation Engineer position to fulfill staffing needs at the landfill and reduce the need for outside contractors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Albany consents to the creation of an additional Operation Engineer position within the Department of General Services.

**Note: Council Members Commisso, O'Brien, Conti and Doesschate spoke on this resolution prior to passage.*

The resolution passed by the following vote of all the Council Members elected voting in favor thereof:
Affirmative – Applrys, Bailey, Conti, Doesschate, Fahey, Flynn, Golby, Herring, Igoe, Kimbrough, Kornegay, O'Brien, and Robinson

Negative – Commisso and Krasher

Affirmative 13 Negative 2 Abstain 0

President Pro Tempore asked and received majority consent to add Resolution Numbers 15.21.14R and 16.21.14R to the agenda, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Council Member Golby introduced RESOLUTION NUMBER 15.21.14R, which was referred to the Public Safety Committee:

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF WARREN W. ABRIEL, JR. AS THE CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE, EMERGENCY AND BUILDING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Albany has, pursuant to the provisions of Article 3 of the City Charter, appointed Warren W. Abriel, Jr. as the Chief of the Department of Fire, Emergency and Building Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Warren W. Abriel, Jr. is confirmed as the Chief of the Department of Fire, Emergency and Building Services.

Council Member Fahey introduced RESOLUTION NUMBER 16.21.014R, asked for passage and a roll call vote thereon:

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL APPOINTING SHAWN MORRIS A MARRIAGE OFFICER PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 3 OF THE DOMESTIC RELATIONS LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

WHEREAS, Article 3 of the Domestic Relations Law authorizes the governing body of a City to appoint Marriage Officers whom shall have the authority to solemnize a marriage in accordance with other applicable provisions of law and within the municipal boundaries of the City,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Shawn Morris is hereby appointed a Marriage Officer in the City of Albany for a term of one (1) week; to wit: February 13 through and including February 19, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be effective immediately.

The resolution passed by the following vote of all the Council Members elected voting in favor thereof:
Affirmative – Applrys, Bailey, Commisso, Conti, Doeschate, Fahey, Flynn, Golby, Herring, Igoe, Kimbrough, Kornegay, Krasher, O’Brien, and Robinson

Affirmative 15 Negative 0 Abstain 0

Resolution Number 16.21.14R was co-sponsored by Council Members Golby and Krasher.

Council Member Fahey asked for passage of RESOLUTION NUMBER 8.12.14R (RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF JONATHAN P. JONES AS THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, YOUTH AND WORKFORCE SERVICES), which had been previously introduced.

**Note: Council Member Krasher and President McLaughlin spoke on this resolution prior to passage.*

The resolution passed by the following vote of all the Council Members elected voting in favor thereof:
Affirmative – Applrys, Bailey, Commisso, Conti, Doeschate, Fahey, Flynn, Golby, Herring, Igoe, Kimbrough, Kornegay, Krasher, O’Brien, and Robinson

Affirmative 15 Negative 0 Abstain 0

Resolution Number 8.12.14R was co-sponsored by Council Members Golby, Kornegay, Krasher and Robinson.

Council Member Herring asked for passage of RESOLUTION NUMBER 10.12.14R (RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF ALBERT R. DE SALVO AS A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD), which had been previously introduced.

The resolution passed by the following vote of all the Council Members elected voting in favor thereof:
Affirmative – Applyrs, Bailey, Commisso, Conti, Doesschate, Fahey, Flynn, Golby, Herring, Igoe, Kimbrough, Kornegay, Krasher, O’Brien, and Robinson

Affirmative 15 Negative 0 Abstain 0

Resolution Number 10.12.14R was co-sponsored by Council Members Bailey, Doesschate, Fahey, Krasher and Robinson.

MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McLaughlin stated, hearing no objections, that the Council was adjourned.

A true record of the Common Council Minutes of February 3rd, 2014.

CASHAWNA PARKER
SENIOR LEGISLATIVE AIDE TO THE
ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL