A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATORS GRANT, MAZUR, MILLS, HOGUES, MARINELLI, HARDWICK, LOUGHRAN, RATH, McCRACKEN, DIXON & LORIGO

FEB 25 '12 AM 10:47

RE: Conveying Support for the Veterans One-stop Center of WNY, Inc., a Collaboration between Goodwill Industries of WNY and WNY Veterans Housing Coalition

WHEREAS, the Veterans One-stop Center of Western New York, Inc. (VOC of WNY) is a 501 c 3 nonprofit corporation offering U.S. Veterans and their families a one-stop resource for a diverse, holistic range of services; and

WHEREAS, the founding partners – Western New York (WNY) Veterans Housing Coalition, Inc. and Goodwill Industries – have developed a business plan based on the *Coming Home to Caring Communities: A Blueprint for Serving Veterans & Families* developed by the Veterans Outreach Center in Rochester, New York; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the VOC of WNY is to bring people, organizations and resources together to effectively improve the well-being of all Western New York Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and their immediate families; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, September 17, 2012, Roger L. Woodworth, Chairman of the VOC of WNY and Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the WNY Veterans Housing Coalition, articulated the VOC's vision that "All veterans and their families have barrier-free access to the services they need to complete the transition to civilian life and achieve their goals and full potential" to the members of VALER4Valor, the Erie County Legislature's ad hoc committee initiated by Chairwoman Betty Jean Grant to serve as an advocacy, linkage and empowerment resource to veterans advocates; and

WHEREAS, by the time of the third meeting of VALER4Valor, it became abundantly clear that the organization in the strongest position to carry forward the development of a VOC of WNY is the aforementioned collaboration of the WNY Veterans Housing Coalition and Goodwill Industries; and

WHEREAS, the VOC of WNY proposal dovetails well with a presentation made by two VALER members at the committee's August 20, 2012 meeting, to wit, proposing that the VOC of WNY serve as the platform for the Integrated Community Care Model (ICCM) advanced by Jennifer Zeitler of COMPEER and John McKeone of Buffalo State College; and

WHEREAS, the ICCM is built on the following Evidence Based Principles: 1) Single Point of Entry, 2) Person-Centered Care, 3) Meaningful Activity, and, 4) Sponsorship; and

WHEREAS, the distinctive quality of the ICCM is that it brings together the community's commercial environment (i.e. the private sector) with the care environment (not-for-profit and government agencies), a superior approach to achieve the long-term success of a veteran's integration with the civilian community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature convey its support of the establishment of a Veterans One-stop Center of Western New York by the WNY Veterans Housing Alliance in collaboration with Goodwill Industries; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body endorses the Integrated Community Care Model as the preferred operating system that will integrate the power of work – or gainful employment – with structures of care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be conveyed to County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Director Carlos Benitez of the Erie County Office of Veterans' Affairs, Roger Woodworth of the WNY Veterans Housing Alliance, Tom Lynch of Goodwill Industries, Jennifer Zeitler of COMPEER, John McKeone of the Veterans Business Outreach Program at Buffalo State College and all others deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: Positive for the Veterans Community of WNY.