

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, NY, AUGUST 22, 2020

*Congratulating Matthew Clark and Recognizing
the Grand Opening of the Matthew Clark Dance Academy*

WHEREAS, Clark Academy offers a wide variety of professional instruction in the performing arts with Ballet, Tap and Jazz as the main curriculum, with additional classes in Modern, Acro, African and Hip-Hop, to help develop a well-rounded dancer; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Clark, artistic director and founder of Clark Academy Dance Center in Buffalo, New York, provides students with an opportunity to benefit from his highly acclaimed, innovative style of instruction; and

WHEREAS, as coach and choreographer, Matthew has displayed extraordinary leadership and proficiency for his teams such as the Canadian National Tap Team, the US National Tap Team and the US Jazz Team; and

WHEREAS, Clark has repeatedly led the groups to championship titles including North American National Tap Dance Champions, Canadian National Dance Champions, World Jazz Congress, 21 World Tap Dance Championship titles and International Dance Organization's World Jazz Champions; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his mastery in teaching, competing and judging, Matthew earned well-deserved recognition as a viable member of the dance world in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia; and

WHEREAS, outside of his hard work and excellence as coach and choreographer, Matthew serves as a member of National Dance Council of America, Dance Masters of America, Dance Educators of America, World Dance Organization, New York State Dance Association of Higher Education and the International Dance Organization; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Clark is also a performer on stage and has appeared in commercials for Reebok, Toyota and Calvin Klein; and

WHEREAS, the Mary B. Talbert Civic and Cultural Organization recently honored Matthew Clark in their effort to spotlight teachers, instructors and mentors in the community who have demonstrated sincere dedication and compassion in their teaching; and

WHEREAS, Matthew has also been honored by former Governor of New York, George Pataki who presented him with the Living Legend Award "Life as an Artist" for his humanitarian efforts with outreach programs in South Africa, the West Indies, and South America; and

WHEREAS, Matthew served as a member of "STORM", a not-for-profit organization committed to serving charities through a variety of events and venues incorporating the art of dance; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Mr. Clark has received praises from former President Bill Clinton for his contributions to the arts, and was a recipient of the Anton German Community of Color Award, presented by Kaleidoscope Dance Theater; and

WHEREAS, Matthew was inducted into The Canadian Dance Hall of Fame, and the Dance Teachers Hall of Fame in New York; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Clark has been thoroughly working to take advantage of every available opportunity for the purpose of continually advancing the Clark Academy Dance Center to the next level to ensure that individuals from our community are provided with the chance to experience a culture of exceptional teaching and create their own dancing experience.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby recognize and extend our congratulations and best wishes to *Matthew Clark* as he embarks on his professional business as the founder of the brand-new *Matthew Clark Dance Academy*; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body extends our appreciation to Mr. Clark for his hard work and the impact he will provide in the City of Buffalo as he builds his clientele throughout Erie County for many years to come.

Hon. April N.M. Baskin
Erie County Legislator, 2nd District

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Legislature