A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATOR HARDWICK

Re: Asking for Public Support and Understanding in Combatting the Deadly COVID-19 Virus

WHEREAS, more than 268,000 Americans have died due to the COVID-19 virus during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, 816 Erie County residents have died from COVID-19 and more than 25,000 residents have contracted the virus; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is not influenza; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has had a devastating impact on the economy and individuals’ personal financial situation, as many businesses have closed and many people have lost their jobs or faced hardship; and

WHEREAS, health care professionals, first responders and Health Department employees have worked tirelessly to mitigate the effects of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the government response at all levels to the pandemic has not been perfect; and

WHEREAS, the already serious problems of drug overdose, domestic violence and suicide have been exacerbated by the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the government taking extraordinary measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 and save lives is not tantamount to tyranny or an assault on the US Constitution; and

WHEREAS, some have argued that there is no evidence that certain types of establishments facilitate the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, there are studies showing that certain types of establishments facilitate the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, although people can disagree with or dispute such evidence, they cannot say that the evidence does not exist; and

WHEREAS, some business owners and their supporters have argued that the precautions they take in operating their establishments make them completely safe for public events and gatherings, while arguing that the high rates of infection in Erie County are the results of gatherings outside their operations at unmasked events that are not socially distanced; and

WHEREAS, some business owners and their supporters have made the above point at mass gatherings in which opponents of COVID-limitations have not worn masks or engaged in socially distancing; and
WHEREAS, most business owners have complied with the measures that have negatively impacted them in the hope that slowing pandemic’s spread in the short-term will permit them to get back to ‘business as usual’ sooner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature mourns the loss of all persons who have died from COVID-19 or related reasons during the pandemic; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body extends its sympathy to those who have lost loved ones or who have suffered lasting, debilitating health effects as a result of the pandemic; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this body expresses its concern for businesses and individuals that have suffered economically from the pandemic and encourages everyone to act responsible so that all businesses, establishments, schools and places of worship can fully and safely re-open; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this body applauds the efforts of the many health care professionals, first responders, Health Department employees and all others who have worked tireless to fight COVID-19; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body encourages the federal government to enact another round of COVID financial relief aimed at helping individuals, businesses and local governments deal with the harsh economic impacts of the pandemic.

Fiscal Impact: None for this resolution.