

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., APRIL 7, 2022, A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in the County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 7th day of April 2022 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

Honoring David J. Swarts upon his Retirement from the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals of Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, **David J. Swarts** is a native of Erie County, and has spent his life working to make Western New York a better place to live, work and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, **David J. Swarts** graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo where he also earned a Masters Degree in Social Services; and

WHEREAS, **David J. Swarts** has filled many significant roles in his career including as Buffalo Youth Program Director, Buffalo Middle School History teacher, Special Assistant to the New York State Assembly, Clerk of the Erie County Legislature, and was elected as Erie County Clerk for four consecutive terms serving from 1986 through 2006, as well as serving as Commissioner of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles; and

WHEREAS, **David J. Swarts** has spent his life serving the community through a variety of organizations including Literacy programs, Knights of Columbus, American Cancer Society, Deaf Adult Services, Buffalo Urban League, and many others; and

WHEREAS, **David J. Swarts** was named president and CEO of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens in 2011 and through his leadership, public-private partnerships, a strong, committed contingency of faithful volunteers numbering over 250, and a focus on its three-year strategic plan the Botanical Gardens have become the horticulture hub of Western New York with a broad array of attractions, programs, and services to pique the interest of an audience that includes over 140,000 visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of **David J. Swarts** the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens experienced significant growth. In 2012 and 2013 new gardens were created and major renovations including community collaborations and interesting new programming were implemented. In 2015 and 2016 greenhouses 2 and 3 were completely restored by Erie County, and in 2017 two new exhibits, the Aquatic Garden and the Asian Rainforest, were installed and opened to the public; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to recognize and honor **David J. Swarts** upon the occasion of his retirement and thank him for his dedication and service to preserving, restoring, and elevating the national historic treasure of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens.

APRIL N.M. BASKIN
*Chair of the
Erie County Legislature*

JOSEPH C. LORIGO
*Minority Leader of the
Erie County Legislature*

TIMOTHY MEYERS
*Majority Leader of the
Erie County Legislature*

JOHN J. GILMOUR
Erie County Legislator

HOWARD J. JOHNSON JR
Erie County Legislator

CHRISTOPHER D. GREENE
Erie County Legislator

LISA CHIMERA
Erie County Legislator

FRANK J. TODARO
Erie County Legislator

JOHN BARGNESI
Erie County Legislator

JOHN J. MILLS
Erie County Legislator

JEANNE M. VINAL
Erie County Legislator

ROBERT M. GRABER
Clerk of the Erie County Legislature