

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, FEBRUARY 17, 2023

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*Honoring and Recognizing Marcus Rivers
Lackawanna Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach*

WHEREAS, *Marcus Rivers*, a lifelong Western New Yorker, father, husband, and current Head Coach of the Lackawanna Steelers Boys and Girls Varsity teams was born on August 2, 1989; and

WHEREAS, Marcus was raised in the City of Lackawanna, a city known for many talented athletes, where he worked hard and transformed himself into a multi-talented athlete who starred on the gridiron and hardwood at Lackawanna High School; and

WHEREAS, Marcus was a part of teams that went 17-3 in his final two season and earned an All-Western New York selection as a defensive back; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Marcus was also a high school basketball star, having been named to the All-Western New York first team in 2006-07; and

WHEREAS, Rivers would continue to play football on a collegiate level and established a career as a wide receiver at the University at Buffalo, which led to multiple auditions in the National Football League (NFL); and

WHEREAS, in late 2016, Rivers came to grips that pursuing a football career was over, and received inspiration on a new career path while speaking to his sister, Sharranoda Rivers; and

WHEREAS, Marcus passed the police exam in October 2016, and began to realize his post-football career would lead him to protect and serve the community he once starred in as officer in the Lackawanna Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Rivers decided to expand his service to the community by getting involved in coaching at the same high school that made him an All Western New York star; and

WHEREAS, Coach Rivers took over the boys' junior varsity basketball program, made immediate progress and was promoted to coach the varsity boys' basketball team; and

WHEREAS, coming off a loss in the Section VI Class B1 final last year, Coach Rivers, with the support of his brother, assistant coach Woodrow Rivers, the Lackawanna boys' basketball team regrouped with a mindset to advance further this season; and

WHEREAS, during summer workouts, several members of the Steeler Girls' basketball team admired and appreciated the dedication they witnessed from Coach Rivers and saw him as a coach that could elevate their game and team morale; and

WHEREAS, members of the girls' team began to train with Rivers and the boys' team, leading to a bond with Rivers and didn't want his mentoring to stop once the school year began; and

WHEREAS, Marcus was presented with the opportunity to lead and mentor girls' varsity in addition to coaching the boys' team and after taking time to think on it, Rivers stepped up to become the new coach of the Girls Varsity team; and

WHEREAS, although Rivers works overnights as a City of Lackawanna Police Officer, he has continued to maintain his presence in high school athletics as a mentor and leader of the Lackawanna Boys and Girls Varsity basketball; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his knowledge of basketball and time dedicated to coaching, due to his competitive nature, the girls' team has earned the most wins in over a decade; and

WHEREAS, Rivers selflessly used his coaching stipend to purchase uniforms for the boys to have an alternate jersey, along with buying warmups for the boys and girls; and

WHEREAS, in working nights and coaching during the day, Marcus is the devoted husband of Ashly Rivers and a proud father of Marcus Jr. and Bella; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rivers cultivates a family dynamic on his teams and stresses life lessons that will serve his players beyond their time on the basketball court.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature congratulates *Marcus Rivers* on a coaching season worth recognizing and for his above and beyond efforts to impact many student-athletes and commends him on his dedication, as well as all the former colleagues, coaches and families Marcus has touched this season.

Hon. John J. Gilmour
Erie County Legislator 9th District

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Erie County Legislature