



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Edward A. Welz has been an inspirational example of professionalism, dedication and visionary leadership in his more than three decades of distinguished service to the New York Power Authority and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Welz has held various crucial NYPA engineering and operations positions, starting in 1982 as an assistant electrical engineer and rising through the ranks to become chief engineer and senior vice president in 2006 and, finally, executive vice president and chief operating officer in 2011, where he has exacted the highest performance standards from his staff of approximately 1,100 and the 16 power plants and more than 1,400 circuit-miles of transmission lines under his auspices; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of his operational and engineering expertise and managerial skills, Mr. Welz has put his personal stamp on a succession of critical Power Authority initiatives, ranging from the ambitious Transmission Life Extension and Modernization program and investments in transformative smart-grid technologies to upgrades and maintenance projects for optimizing NYPA's fleet of power plants to ensure their efficient, reliable operation for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Welz's emphasis on training and emergency preparedness of operational personnel proved invaluable during Tropical Storms Irene and Lee in late summer 2011 when plant staff at the Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project responded quickly and heroically to unprecedented flood water conditions in Central New York and, again, approximately one year later when staff ensured the continued operation of NYPA's downstate facilities during Superstorm Sandy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Welz's consistent focus on personnel safety led him to establish a practice of beginning all Operations meetings with a safety talk and engendered a pervasive culture throughout the organization that has resulted in record low numbers of safety incidents at the Power Authority, leading to numerous industry honors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Welz was tapped to manage an integrated team as part of the Power Authority's first culture change initiative ("Focus"), where, in addition to meeting his future wife and fellow NYPA employee, Leanore, he helped the organization adapt to the first wave of utility deregulation in the mid-to-late 1990s; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Welz was also a principal architect of the Power Authority's Strategic Vision 2020 plan, which has helped to position NYPA to enhance its strengths and adapt and add to its current capabilities in helping to make New York a leader in the power industry; and



WHEREAS, in 2015, Mr. Welz led NYPA's management team through impasse mediation to an agreement that resulted in a new contract with Local 2032 and Local 2014 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers that reflects the high value NYPA places on the skills and dedication of its unionized workforce; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Welz's adherence to the Lao Tzu management philosophy that "A leader is best when people barely know that he exists" epitomized his collaborative management style and encouraged his staff to view him as a trusted mentor and an inspiring adviser; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Welz used his position to diversify NYPA's Operations organization, promoting many women and minorities to senior positions, including the first female vice president, director and project manager in Operations and the first African-American regional manager; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Welz is retiring from the Power Authority after a 34-year tenure in which his singular talents and expertise have brought immense benefit to the Authority and the people of New York State;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Trustees of the Power Authority of the State of New York express their thanks and admiration to Ed Welz for his many achievements and convey to him; Leanore, their daughter, Nicole, and grandson, Mario Edward, sincere wishes for many healthy, happy and rewarding years ahead.

May 24, 2016