

RESOLUTION -2021

Westchester County Resolution to Support the Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of our Nation in Conjunction with State, Regional, and Local Initiatives

WHEREAS, the United States Congress established the United States Semiquincentennial Act of 2016, and President Barack Obama signed Public Law 114-196, the “United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016”; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Act was to establish a Commission to provide for the observance and commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and related events through local, State, national and international activities planned, encouraged, developed and coordinated by a national commission representative of appropriate public and private authorities and organizations; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Legislature in 2020 introduced in the Assembly and in the Senate an act to be known as the “New York state two hundred fiftieth commemoration act”, an act to amend the parks, recreation and historic preservation law by adding a new section to establish a New York state two hundred fiftieth commemoration commission, along with other related sections; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the New York State Historian, is supportive of the observance and commemoration of the 250th anniversary, has held regional meetings across the State, and has established the Revolutionary NY250 Working Group, with nearly 50 members from across the state who are sharing information and opinions about the outlines of a New York State approach to the 250th commemoration; and

WHEREAS, the County of Westchester, including the Office of the County Executive, the County Office of Tourism & Film, and the County Board of Legislators, has been working together since 2018 to provide assistance and funding to support efforts to build awareness and support for the Commemoration, specifically cooperating with Revolutionary Westchester 250 Inc., a not-for profit corporation with a mission to help build awareness and excitement for the events, places, ideals and people—both unsung and famous—of the Revolutionary War period in Westchester County; and

WHEREAS, The County of Westchester invested in the restoration of the Miller House, a pivotal resource in the understanding of the County’s history of the Revolutionary War period; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Greenburgh, the State of New York and the Friends of the Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters have begun robust efforts to secure, preserve and restore the important Revolutionary War structure Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters in order to have it restored and functioning as a museum during the 250th commemoration events, and

WHEREAS, The County of Westchester’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation has committed to the use of Ward Pound Ridge Reservation for a reenactment of the Battle of

White Plains in 2026 as part of the National Commemoration of the American Revolution and the White Plains Historical Society and the City of White Plains have for many years encouraged educational programs to build awareness of the Battle of White Plains; and

WHEREAS, Revolutionary Westchester 250 has held popular and well attended public events since 2018, in diverse communities and now virtually, and has created a website, Facebook and YouTube presence, produced a regular newsletter, created an advisory group of local public and private stakeholders, with County Executive Latimer as honorary chairperson, engaged volunteers and local organizations, been awarded grants and received donations to support the efforts, and has taken steps in coordination with State and Federal level 250th organizers; and

WHEREAS, the Westchester County Historical Society is supportive of the work of Revolutionary Westchester 250 and the State, regional and federal initiatives to commemorate the 250th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, various local communities and historical societies and libraries have become engaged with the commemorative efforts including the Town of Yorktown whose board passed a resolution on February 18, 2020 establishing the Yorktown 250 Committee, to commemorate Yorktown's local history in conjunction with the history of the U.S., New York State and Westchester County; and work in coordination with the federal, State, regional and county initiatives; and

WHEREAS, research shows that cultural heritage tourists have higher incomes, stay longer and spend more than most other tourists, and this generally benefits local business; and

WHEREAS, well-crafted and well publicized activities related to historic events, people, stories and sites, with suggested links to recreational opportunities, will also generate increased business activities and local tax revenues; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Board of Legislators will, as appropriate, collaborate with local, county, regional, state and national groups to plan, publicize and implement 250th Anniversary events and programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Board of Legislators pledges, as appropriate, to work with Revolutionary Westchester 250 and all involved institutions and organizations, in support of their efforts to create meaningful programming about Westchester County's role in the founding of our country and the creation of ideals embodied therein; and to assist them in publicizing said programming and making it available to everyone throughout the County, State and nation.

Arthur B. Benjamin Boynton
W. H. Miller

COMMITTEES ON

Budget + Appropriations

2/22/2021

Dated: February 22, 2021
White Plains, New York

The following members attended the meeting remotely, as per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 and approved this item out of Committee with an affirmative vote. Their electronic signature was authorized and is below.

Committee(s) on:

Budget & Appropriations





Margaret A. Cunzio

Catherine F. Parker

David A. Tubish





Ruth Walker

