DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Commendation: Hudson Valley Renegades

Resolution No. 2024148A

The Dutchess County Legislature offers the following and moves its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Dutchess County Legislature seeks to acknowledge the contributions of entities whose actions serve to enhance the quality of life in Dutchess County, and

WHEREAS, on August 2nd, 2024, the Hudson Valley Renegades took the field as the Newburgh Gorhams in an effort to spotlight the rich local history of all-black professional baseball clubs, and

WHEREAS, the Newburgh Gorhams hold an important place in the history of baseball, organized in 1886, the Gorhams joined the League of Colored Baseball Players in 1887, the first ever all-black professional baseball league and boasted three future Hall of Famers on their roster at various times, and

WHEREAS, Ambrose Davis, who organized the Gorhams, was the first known African American team owner in the history of professional sports, and

WHEREAS, the Gorhams were a tremendously successful baseball club, having won 39 straight games and winning 96 games in a 100-game span in 1891, and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 1891, President Benjamin Harrison attended a Gorhams game held in Cape May, New Jersey, marking the only time a sitting president watched a game involving an all-black professional club during the entire era of segregated baseball, and

WHEREAS, the Hudson Valley Renegades honored the legacy of the Gorhams and the pioneers of all-black professional baseball who made invaluable contributions to our national pastime by hosting a special recognition night at the ballpark on August 2nd, taking the field in Gorhams jerseys and hosting a meaningful pre-game ceremony with community leaders, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Legislature, on behalf of all the people of Dutchess County, does hereby commend and congratulate the Hudson Valley Renegades for recognizing the Newburgh Gorhams and using their platform to share the story of this historically significant baseball club with the community.

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess, have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 12th day of August 2024, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 12th day of August 2024

LEIGH WAGER, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE