

**RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE THE ONE YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF COVID-19 IN ESSEX COUNTY**

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Barber, who moved its adoption.

Upon the recommendation of the Ways and Means Committee of this Body, and the same appearing proper and necessary.

WHEREAS, the first case of COVID-19 was identified in Essex County on March 17th, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it has been a year, this March since this historic date; and

WHEREAS, during the past year, COVID-19 has claimed the lives of over 540,000 Americans, over 48,000 New Yorker's, and 27 Essex County residents; and

WHEREAS, many families could heartbreakingly not be with their loved ones during their last moments in nursing homes and hospitals due to risk of contracting and spreading this highly contagious virus; and

WHEREAS, local health department staff have worked countless hours of overtime, on holidays, and on weekends to mitigate the spread of the virus in their communities; and

WHEREAS, numerous county agencies, such as the Office for the Aging, Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, Department of Social Services, Office of Mental Health, Department of Public Works, and others, have maintained critical services to residents, and in many cases, have assisted the Essex County Health Department with isolation, quarantine, contact tracing, and vaccine administration activities; and

WHEREAS, scores of community volunteers have supported COVID-19 response efforts by joining the Essex County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to provide both clinical and non-clinical support services, most especially to vaccine administration activities, and engaged in other community-based activities such as ensuring foods and goods were provided to those most in need; and

WHEREAS, healthcare workers, grocery/convenience store workers, restaurant and food service employees, and many other essential personnel have continued to work throughout the pandemic, at significant risk to their health, to provide lifesaving medical care and other necessary services to Essex County residents;

WHEREAS, schools in Essex County, as soon as authorized, have maximized in-person instruction, while maintaining the health and safety of students and staff, through countless changes to guidelines and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, our media partners have continued to provide tremendous coverage of information and stories relevant to Essex County residents, with accuracy and in a timely manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Supervisors, its Clerk of the Board, County Manager and County Attorney hereby extend their appreciation and recognition to honor the sacrifice of local health department and other county agency staff, healthcare workers, school personnel, all essential workers and volunteers, including the media, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and offer all due respect to the families of those lost to this insidious virus and furthermore memorialize the significant loss of life across New York State, the United States, and the world.

This resolution was seconded by Supervisor Rand, and duly adopted.