

2023 -- S 0007

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING AND THANKING DEBORAH L. PERRY FOR TWENTY-FOUR  
YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO YWCA RHODE ISLAND AND  
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Valarie J. Lawson

Date Introduced: January 10, 2023

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Deborah L. Perry gained the distinguished designation as the youngest  
2 President and CEO of YWCA Rhode Island when she was appointed in July of 1999, at the age  
3 of 36. She had previously served as the nonprofit's Development Director from 1997-1999; and

4 WHEREAS, During her tenure, Ms. Perry focused her talents and vision on increasing  
5 the YWCA's assets, adding a panoply of innovative programs to address the needs and challenges  
6 of many Rhode Island communities, and instituting numerous plans that have provided for the  
7 long term financial stability and success of the organization; and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Perry has achieved myriad advancements in YWCA programing and  
9 services including the establishment of innovative programs for middle school girls, the  
10 acquisition and revitalization of the YWCA/Nickerson Community Center in Providence, the  
11 creation of media celebrating the aspirations and accomplishments of Rhode Island women, and  
12 the formation of a statewide organization through the merger of Woonsocket-based YWCA  
13 Northern Rhode Island into Central Falls-based YWCA Greater Rhode Island; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition, Ms. Perry served as the inaugural chair of the Sheila Skip  
15 Nowell Leadership Academy and managed Gateway to Independence, which serves more than  
16 100 veterans each year; and

17 WHEREAS, The Chair of the YWCA Rhode Island YWCA's Board of Directors  
18 fittingly praised Ms. Perry's accomplishments stating, "Deborah's leadership, vision,  
19 determination, as well as her unassuming 'can do' approach, have all served to increase the

1 influence and impact of the YWCA"; and

2 WHEREAS, Deborah Perry's achievements and advancements for and with YWCA  
3 Rhode Island have been beneficial to many, many Rhode Islanders and she is worthy of our  
4 gratitude and recognition; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby congratulates and  
6 thanks Deborah Perry for her dedicated leadership and service to YWCA Rhode Island on the  
7 occasion of her retirement as the organization's President and CEO. We moreover wish her good  
8 health and continued success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Deborah L. Perry.

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