

No. R-210. House concurrent resolution congratulating Revitalizing Waterbury on its 20th anniversary.

(H.C.R.155)

Offered by: Representatives Stevens of Waterbury and Ellis of Waterbury

Whereas, since the early 19th century, downtown Waterbury has been an historic commercial center in central Vermont, and

Whereas, after decades of deterioration, the Stimson & Graves building was threatened to be demolished and replaced with a car wash, and

Whereas, in 1991, Kathy O'Dell Thompson, Bob McLeod, and Jeff Kilgore executed a purchase and sale agreement for the Stimson & Graves building and formed the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization Revitalizing Waterbury, and

Whereas, the original mission of Revitalizing Waterbury was “to preserve and enhance the economic, historic and social vitality of downtown Waterbury,” and

Whereas, ensuring that downtown Waterbury remains a welcoming and inviting destination for visitors and residents has been a continuing goal, and

Whereas, Revitalizing Waterbury recognizes that its mission is not one to be completed in the short term but represents a commitment to a continuing process, and its executive director, Jeanne Kirby, board of directors, and committees work collaboratively to make downtown Waterbury a more enticing destination, and the organization publicizes its activities in its *Revival News & Notes* newsletter, and

Whereas, among the most important efforts was assisting Waterbury in successfully securing state downtown designation in 2006 and the economic and tax benefits which it provides, and

Whereas, with respect to brick and mortar projects, Revitalizing Waterbury is especially proud of its contribution to the beautiful historic restoration of the Stimson & Graves Block in 1992 and the Waterbury railroad station in 2006, and

Whereas, these building projects created previously unavailable downtown spaces for economic development, affordable housing, and community activities through public and private partnerships with local governments and businesses, and

Whereas, during 2011, Revitalizing Waterbury is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a number of exciting activities, the first of which was the ninth annual Waterbury Community Fair which was held at the Thatcher Brook Elementary School on February 27, and

Whereas, later this year, on July 15–16, the Stowe Street Arts Festival will take over this downtown thoroughfare, featuring musicians and dancers, great food for eating, dozens of artists displaying their creations, and programs for children, and

Whereas, the fifth annual Waterbury Holiday Stroll will round out the year on December 3, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Revitalizing Waterbury on its 20th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Jeanne Kirby at Revitalizing Waterbury.