

**City of Cortland
Cortland, New York**

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Chief Dennis Baron is a 43 year veteran of the fire service. With a longstanding and strong family history in the fire service, Baron joined the emergency services field in 1967 as a volunteer with the Nyack Fire Department's Jackson Hose Company #3 in Rockland County. During his 20 year active membership, Baron served Jackson Hose as engineer, second lieutenant, first lieutenant, and two terms as captain. He served as captain of operations and chairman of the board for the Nyack Community Ambulance Corp. He became a paid firefighter in 1971 with the Greenville Fire District in Westchester County where he served for 15 years as a firefighter and later a captain and deputy chief. In August 1986 he joined the Cortland Fire Department, where he served as a Chief of the department for 23½ years until his retirement February 28, 2010; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Chief Baron has been very proactive in the area of code enforcement. He previously worked for the Village of South Nyack, where he instituted a code enforcement department. On arrival to the City of Cortland, he completely revamped the code enforcement system and building department of the city, bringing them under the umbrella of the fire department; and

WHEREAS, Baron was a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. For 14 years, he served as president of the Career Fire Chiefs of New York State. A member of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs since 1986, Baron was a member and chairman of the Association's Paid Chief's Committee prior to joining the Board of Directors, on which he served for five years; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Chief Baron had a profound impact on the structure, nature and culture of the Cortland Fire Department, e.g.,

- 23½ years as Fire Chief, the longest term of any chief in the history of the Cortland Fire Department;
- greatly expanded the medical service abilities of the department by instituting programs leading to the majority of members to be emergency medical technicians;
- the emergency rescue equipment of the fire department was expanded by Chief Baron to include hydraulic rescue tools and the placement of heart defibrillators on all fire apparatus;
- staffed the City of Cortland building and zoning department with fire fighting personnel which resulted in more professional code enforcement services to the public and provided additional fire protection to the City;
- Commanded many difficult fires, including fatal fires (Clinton Avenue, North Church Street, Grange Place and Crandall Street); and notable structure fires (Willcox Tire, Wickwire Factory, State Farm Insurance, Olde Homer House, County Recycling Center, 1890 House, Smooches, St. Mary's Rectory, oxygen feed explosion at Cooper Tools).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Susan D. Feiszli**, Mayor of the **City of Cortland**, do hereby recognize the many accomplishments of Chief Dennis Baron who has retired from the City of Cortland Fire Department.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Cortland, New York this 21st day of September, 2010.

Susan D. Feiszli
Mayor