

TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATURE REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 18, 2001

**RESOLUTION NO. 335 - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSITION OF POET
LAUREATE FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY**

MOVED by Mr. Stein, seconded by Mr. Lalley, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present.

WHEREAS, poetry has long been considered a respected and important means to express ideas and to provide insights and meaning to everyday life, and

WHEREAS, poetry and poets can enrich the education of our youth, and

WHEREAS, there are many poets and several poetry groups currently in Tompkins County who are willing to share their works with the public, and

WHEREAS, encouraging that sharing can enrich the lives of people in Tompkins County if poets are brought more into the realm of public life, and

WHEREAS, the appointment of a Poet Laureate can enhance the County's position as a cultural center and thereby encourage economic development through tourism, and

WHEREAS, the position of a Poet Laureate serving government and society dates back to the Fifteenth Century, with many of the most eminent poets in history occupying that public position, and

WHEREAS, the United States and many States and some cities already have established the position of Poet Laureate, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee, That said position is established as an honorary position with no salary, although an annual award or honorarium from non-County sources will be permissible and encouraged,

RESOLVED, further, That the first appointment shall be made for a two-year term by the Chair of the Board of Representatives, and subsequently for one-year terms,

RESOLVED, further, That the Board Chair, in making the appointment, shall seek advice and recommendations from groups and individuals in the County who have knowledge of local poets and poetry,

RESOLVED, further, That the Poet Laureate shall give a short reading at the opening of each year of the County Board,

RESOLVED, further, That additional activities during the term, except as otherwise specified in this resolution, will be defined by the person appointed to that position, but it is expected that he or she will mark our public life and public events with poetry that will, among other things, celebrate our unique geographical setting, and note transformational moments in the life of the County,

RESOLVED, further, That the Poet Laureate will be encouraged to undertake additional activities, which may include: meeting with school children to bring an understanding of poetry; holding a poetry contest for seniors or school children; giving a workshop for a particular segment of the community; and hosting a Day of Poetry with readings by various local poets, possibly in the County or town libraries or in the local schools.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20