

CONGRATULATING THE SYRACUSE SELECT 9TH GRADE AAU BASKETBALL TEAM FOR CAPTURING THE 2012 NATIONAL TITLE

WHEREAS, Excellence in competitive team sports is achieved only through rigorous practice, determination and strategic planning, nurtured by skilled and dedicated coaching; and

WHEREAS, The people of the State of New York take great pride in honoring those talented young individuals, who distinguish themselves and their community through outstanding team spirit, character and athletic performance; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such principals, and fully in accord with long-standing traditions, I, Senator John A. DeFrancisco, on behalf of the proud citizens of the 50th Senate District, hereby recognize and congratulate the Syracuse Select 9th Grade AAU basketball team for capturing the 2012 AAU Division III National Title, the team's first national championship win; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse Select 9th Grade AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) basketball team is part of the highly-ranked Syracuse Select basketball program, the largest modified basketball league in Central New York; and

WHEREAS, After months of rigorous practice, members of the Syracuse Select 9th Grade AAU basketball team advanced to district qualifiers, then qualified for the Under-15 National Championship Tournament held July 28-31 in Hampton, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, During the final game of the 2012 AAU Division III Tournament against the South Side Flames of Virginia, the Syracuse Select 9th Grade AAU basketball team came out strong in the second half, improving defense and three-point shooting to secure a 76-62 win over the Flames and to capture the 2012 AAU Division II National Title; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse Select 9th Grade AAU basketball team prevailed during the 2012 AAU Division III Tournament due to the unbeatable combination of outstanding talent, sportsmanship, team effort, and perseverance throughout the team's entire roster: Jeff Lobello, Jake Wittig, Connor Evans, Jordan Roland, Keisean Scott, Zach Gillard, Tyler Reynolds, Tim Marshall Junior, and Zach Walser; and

WHEREAS, The notable efforts displayed by the Syracuse Select 9th Grade basketball team are due in great part to the dedicated efforts of Head Coach Pete Lobello and James Evans and Tim Marshall; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Syracuse Select 9th Grade AAU basketball team have also received the loyal support of family, friends, and the community at large throughout the entire season; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That I, Senator John A. DeFrancisco, on behalf of my 50th Senate District, hereby recognize and congratulate the Syracuse Select 9th Grade AAU basketball team for capturing the 2012 AAU Division III National Title; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Citation, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the athletes and coaches of the Syracuse Select 9th Grade AAU basketball team.

John A. DeFrancisco
New York State Senator
50th District
Dated: August 22, 2012