

CONGRATULATING THE SYRACUSE SELECT 10TH 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 10th Grade AAU basketball team for capturing the 2012 AAU Division II National Title, the team's first-ever national title; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse Select 10th 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 10th Grade AAU basketball team proved the importance of hard work by advancing to the district qualifiers held in Seneca Falls from April 21st to April 22nd; they beat 16 other teams to advance to national competition held in Orlando, Florida, from July 12th to July 19th; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse Select 10th Grade AAU basketball team came out strong at the 2012 AAU Division II Tournament, achieving an overall 8-1 record and topping the North Carolina Blazers with a score of 73-62 to win the 2012 AAU Division II National Title on July 29th; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse Select 10th Grade AAU basketball team prevailed during the 2012 AAU Division II Tournament due to the unbeatable combination of outstanding talent, sportsmanship, team effort, and perseverance throughout the team's entire roster: Matt Bonavita, Jimmy Carnes, Brian DeMonte, Ben Hackett, Kyle Hawk, Daniel Kaigler, Cameron Littlejohn, Johny Novenche, Jack Rauch, Andrew Vogl, Ronnie Williams, and Stewart Wright; and

WHEREAS, The notable efforts displayed by the Syracuse Select 10th Grade basketball team are due in great part to the dedicated efforts of Head Coach Lenny Rauch and to the efforts of Brian DeMonte and Syracuse Select Basketball Program Director Shawn Pudney; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Syracuse Select 10th 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 10th Grade AAU basketball team for capturing the 2012 AAU Division II National Title, the team's first-ever 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 10th Grade AAU basketball team.

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