

No. R-45. House concurrent resolution recognizing the invaluable community contribution of ReBuild Waterbury to the post-Tropical Storm Irene recovery.

(H.C.R.21)

Offered by: Representatives Stevens of Waterbury and Ellis of Waterbury

Whereas, Tropical Storm Irene severely damaged many Vermont municipalities, among which was Waterbury, and

Whereas, the assistance of hundreds of Waterbury citizens who came forth for their neighbors after the storm was inspiring and welcomed, but a more sustainable and structured response was needed for the longer term, and

Whereas, officials of the town and village of Waterbury consulted with representatives of Revitalizing Waterbury, an existing 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission “to preserve and enhance the economic, historic and social vitality of downtown Waterbury,” enabled it to provide critical guidance in the creation of a more formal, storm recovery effort, and

Whereas, these discussions resulted in the formation of a separate organization, under the auspices of Revitalizing Waterbury, called ReBuild Waterbury, with a mission “to assist individuals and families in the 05676 area zip code who are in need of assistance to rebuild their homes from the disaster-caused effects of Tropical Storm Irene,” and

Whereas, ReBuild Waterbury operated on the five principles of community (“the community is strengthened and enhanced by proving assistance for storm-impacted individuals and families); respect (individuals and families and all government partners were treated with respect); self-determination (ReBuild Waterbury provided technical expertise and volunteer labor but left basic reconstruction decisions to individuals and families); effectiveness and efficiency (the needs of individuals and families were met in a timely and cost-effective way); and collaboration (partnerships promoted between individuals or families and government agencies or service-based organizations), and

Whereas, in the months following Tropical Storm Irene, ReBuild Waterbury opened 104 cases, tallied 9,960 volunteer hours, exceeded its fundraising goal of \$900,000.00 by \$94,463.00, and coordinated 77 individual volunteers and 34 volunteer groups, and

Whereas, ReBuild Waterbury concluded its important restoration role in January 2013, having helped residents in Waterbury, Duxbury, Bolton, and Moretown return to their homes, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the invaluable community contribution of ReBuild Waterbury to the post-Tropical Storm Irene recovery, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the ReBuild Waterbury Steering Committee and the Revitalizing Waterbury Board of Directors.