OAR 30th Anniversary Proclamation

WHEREAS, offender advocacy agencies were created, increasingly in the 1970s, to mitigate the adverse effects of incarceration and ensure the humane treatment of inmates, and

WHEREAS, Offender Aid & Restoration of Tompkins County, Inc., (O.A.R.) manifest the principals of a national network within our locality and has a 30-year history providing support services to and advocacy on behalf of Tompkins County Jail inmates and former inmates and their families; and,

WHEREAS, Tompkins County residents who are economically disadvantaged and homeless continue to populate our jail at rates greater than the general population, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Jail caseload has increased 11% since 2001, and

WHEREAS, Offender Aid & Restoration of Tompkins County, Inc., has contributed to public safety and the well-being of incarcerated community members by providing clients with assistance in accessing legal counsel, healthcare, employment, and educational opportunities, and

WHEREAS, incarcerated community members' welfare and maintenance of links to general society have been enhanced from the County's partnership with Offender Aid & Restoration of Tompkins County, Inc., and

WHEREAS, incarcerated community members require further opportunities to build personal security and socio-economic stability through the provision of comprehensive re-entry services, thus ensuring that all the County's citizens are able to live in dignity, post-incarceration, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County, New York State and the entire United States must continue to work for alternatives to incarceration that diminish recidivism, promote public safety, and enable all persons to achieve their potential as community members,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tim Joseph, Chair of the Tompkins County Legislature, do hereby proclaim the month of June, 2006 as

Offender Aid & Restoration Month

In Tompkins County.

In recognition of the hard work and dedication of Offender Aid & Restoration of Tompkins County, Inc., upon the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of their organization.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Tompkins County, State of New York, on this 1rst day of June 2006.

Tim Joseph, Chair
Tompkins County Legislature