

RESOLUTION 2026 NO. ____

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ONEONTA IN SUPPORT OF THE AMERICA 250 COMMEMORATION AND AUTHORIZING RELATED EXPENDITURES

WHEREAS, the United States of America will commemorate its 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026, marking a historic milestone in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, asserting the American colonies' freedom from British rule and laying the foundation for the principles of democracy and self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, known as the America 250 Commission (america250.org), was established by Congress in 2016 to plan and coordinate the national commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, the New York State 250th Commemoration Commission was created to lead statewide efforts to commemorate the founding of the United States and New York's pivotal role in the nation's formation and development; and

WHEREAS, Town Law authorizes the town board to appropriate funds for the proper observance of patriotic and historical events (Town Law § 64 [12], [14]), and Arts and Cultural Affairs Law § 57.07 further authorizes local governments to appropriate and expend funds for historical purposes within their jurisdiction, including the erection of markers and monuments, the preservation of historical materials, and cooperation with local historical organizations; and

WHEREAS, these statutes provide the legal authority for towns to engage in and support commemorations that are educational, patriotic, and historical in character, including public programming, exhibits, community events, and historical preservation activities connected to America 250; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oneonta recognizes the importance of America 250 as an opportunity to reflect on our community's contributions to the American story, honor the achievements of past generations, and inspire renewed civic engagement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Oneonta hereby expresses its support for the America 250 Commemoration and authorizes the town board and appropriate departments to plan, promote, and participate in programs and events consistent with the purposes of Town Law § 64 and Arts and Cultural Affairs Law § 57.07; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such activities may include, but are not limited to, educational programming, historical exhibits, patriotic decorations, community celebrations, and collaborations with local schools, libraries, and historical societies, provided that all expenditures serve a proper public purpose and comply with applicable fiscal and procurement requirements.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this __ day of _____, 2026.