

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc. (TRI), is Dutchess County's leading disability advocacy organization, providing vital outreach and services for persons with disabilities and older adults during this public health crisis.; and

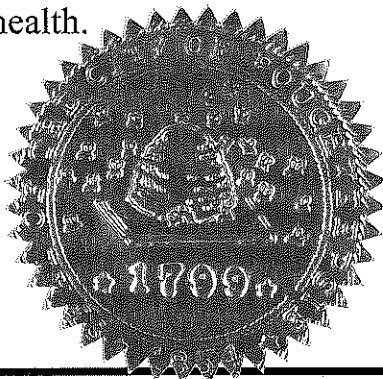
WHEREAS, TRI is at the front lines in our community, providing essential services to our consumers; and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County residents with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted during this pandemic, and face unique challenges. Virtual classrooms are adequate in addressing the unique needs of students with disabilities, especially those on the autism spectrum. Mandated facial coverings have presented an undue hardship on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population, many of whom are now unable to read lips in order to communicate; and

WHEREAS, TRI has made and distributed facial masks with clear plastic mouth areas for sign language interpreters and community partners. TRI has received a grant from Dutchess Responds to purchase essential items for community members in need. TRI's Special Education advocates are hosting monthly virtual workshops for parents of students with disabilities to provide advocacy support and information in navigating the virtual classroom, understanding the CSE process in addition to other topics of concern; and

WHEREAS, TRI's Open Doors program is working to make sure older adults and persons with disabilities receive the supports they need to live with dignity and choice in the community. TRI's Housing Advocate has been meeting our homeless population in parks and other open spaces to provide them with affordable housing applications and resource materials. TRI's Mobile Benefits Advocate has been hosting information virtual workshops to inform consumers about SSI, SSDI, and other programs to help them pursue their independent living goals. TRI's Deaf Interpreter Services Program staff continue to schedule ASL interpreters to assist our Deaf consumers in communicating with various community entities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert G. Rolison, Mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie do thank TRI for all of their hard work and effort made during the Covid-19 pandemic to help keep our community safe and in good health.




Robert G. Rolison, Mayor
Poughkeepsie, NY