Proclamation

City of Oneida – Madison County

WHEREAS, the Greater Oneida Chamber of Commerce is honoring Mayor Leo Matzke with the **Distinguished Service Award**, which is presented to a community member, business or organization who has demonstrated service and commitment to improving the local community and making our area a better more vibrant place to live, and no one is more deserving than Leo Matzke; **and**

WHEREAS, Leo has been married to the love of his life for over 50 years, they raised three children who gave them ten grandchildren that he adores. Leo loves children as shown by his dedication to teaching for 35 years, being a soccer coach for ten years, foster father to many young people over the years, and even a girl scout leader; **and**

WHEREAS, Leo has been both the Director and Executive Director of the Madison County Children's camp since 1975... his passion for children shined in all that he has done for the camp; building it from 40 kids a week to 700. From writing grants to getting down in the dirt to help with a project, Leo's enthusiasm is exhilarating. Leo still keeps in contact with many of the young people he met through the years via social media; **and**

WHEREAS, Leo started his career in local government in 1984, being a Council Member, the Deputy Mayor and the proud Mayor of the City he loves. Leo's involvement with City government has seen him rally his efforts to revitalize the downtown business district; be instrumental in the creation of the City's Nuisance Abatement Law, and hold various "Town Hall" meetings over the years to hear the insight, comments and concerns of our residents. Leo's door is always open to the public... except for the many times he forgets his keys; **and**

WHEREAS, Leo's life has always been bursting with the need to serve... as a young man, he joined the seminary for four years, attended LeMoyne College, and was one of the first members of VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America, before enlisting in the Army... Leo also was a MASH medic as part of his stint in the military... the need to serve his fellow man has always been what he was born to do; **and**

WHEREAS, Leo's commitment to this community extends to his involvement outside of work. During the devasting 2013 flood cleanup, Leo volunteered with an organization called "Northern Comfort" to help with the rebuilding the homes of families who had lost everything. Leo was a Madison County Historical Society Board Member and past Commander of the Oneida American Legion; **and**

WHEREAS, Leo is always thinking of ideas to get our City and community involved... from Scarecrow Contests to Pumpkin Chucking to the 911 Memorial Services, Leo is always leading the way. If you ask anyone, the answer is the same... "Leo Matzke, he is such a nice guy". Leo has touched so many lives over the years and continues to do so each and every day; **now therefore**

I, James Chamberlain, Deputy Mayor of the City of Oneida, on behalf of the citizens of Oneida, congratulate this admirable and benevolent gentleman on the honor of receiving the

2019 Distinguished Service Award

and we commend him for his loyalty, devotion and allegiance to the City he has always loved.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affix the official seal of the City of Oneida on this 29th day of October, 2019.

James Chamberlain, Deputy Mayor