

**WHEREAS**, all species play a unique role in the complex web of life and contribute to the ecosystem services on which all life on Earth depends, and hence, protecting our species is crucial to the survival of this planet and its inhabitants; and

**WHEREAS**, wild animal populations have declined on average by more than half and the Earth is facing an era of mass extinction; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of species is for the most part a result of human activity, including degradation of ecosystems, deforestation, pollution, and climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, by 2050, between 60-70% of all people will live in cities and species provide important services to city dwellers such as generating oxygen and purifying the air; controlling other animals considered pests or that spread disease; pollinating plants and crops; providing recreation opportunities and well-being, etc.; and

**WHEREAS**, many plants, wild animals, and pollinators live in urbanized landscapes, and cities thereby have a responsibility to examine the ecological impacts of expanding urban areas and how to protect biodiversity; and

**WHEREAS**, it is understood that sustainability will only be achieved by meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations; and  
**WHEREAS**, it is more important than ever to cooperate locally and internationally to defend the environmental progress that has been heretofore gained; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential to expand and diversify the global environmental movement to achieve maximum progress; and

**WHEREAS**, Earth Day is an annual reminder of the constant need for environmental activism, stewardship commitments and sustainability efforts;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Michael Putrino, Mayor of the Borough of New Milford have the distinct honor of proclaiming April 22, 2020 as

## **EARTH DAY**

throughout the Borough of New Milford and encourage all of its citizens, businesses, and institutions to use EARTH DAY to celebrate the Earth and promote the protection of our species.

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