

**COUNTY OF TIOGA
EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS: Hunting is an American tradition, and among the most popular forms of outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS: Tioga County is rich in wooded land, making it highly suitable for hunting; and

WHEREAS: During the 2020-2021 sporting season, 16,294 sporting licenses were sold to residents and non-residents in Tioga County, an increase of almost 5,000 in the previous two years; and

WHEREAS: Hunting may include the harvesting of big and small game animals by firearm, bow-and-arrow and trapping. A total of 7,208 deer, 583 turkey and 13 bear were harvested in Tioga County in 2020 and 2021; and

WHEREAS: Hunting is typically an enjoyable sport, but tragically in 2019 there was an accidental shooting related to hunting in Tioga County, that was preventable; and

WHEREAS: 2021 had the lowest number of hunting-related shooting incidents ever recorded in NYS, but efforts to reduce hunting accidents and promote safe hunting must continue; and

WHEREAS: Every new hunter must take a hunter education course, that teaches future hunters how to be safe, responsible and ethical in the field; and

WHEREAS: Every hunter, whether new or experienced should always follow basic hunter safety standards: let someone know where you will be hunting and when you plan to return, practice shooting and check all equipment to ensure it's in good condition, wear hunter orange or pink in the field, treat every firearm as if it's loaded at all times, identify your target before shooting; and

WHEREAS: Check if maintenance is needed on tree stands in advance, wear a safety harness if hunting from a tree, know the limitations of your physical ability and your equipment and do not push them; and

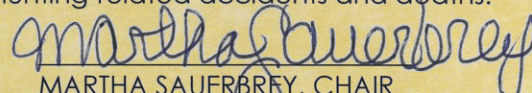
WHEREAS: Hunting is a privilege, and all hunters have a responsibility to know the laws and regulations, but also have a duty to keep themselves and their fellow hunters safe; now therefore

The TIOGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE, County of Tioga, does hereby proclaim the month of November as

HUNTING SAFETY MONTH

and urges all those who hunt to participate in hunter safety education and follow basic hunter safety standards to prevent hunting-related accidents and deaths.

DATED: November 15, 2022


MARTHA SAUERBREY, CHAIR
TIOGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE

