

Proclamation



WHEREAS, Dr. Venu Govindaraju, PhD, a resident of the Town of Amherst and Vice President for Research and Economic Development for the University at Buffalo, has made remarkable contributions for which he is honored and celebrated; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Govindaraju was recognized on December 14, 2024 as the C.H.A.I – Council of Heritage and Arts of India's Person of the Year during the Annual Dinner Celebration, a recognition that is much deserved; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Govindaraju's work is recognized worldwide, specifically his contributions in the field of Document Analysis & Recognition (DAR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) continue to drive innovations that impact the globe, and is considered a pioneer of impactful artificial intelligence technologies with global reach; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Govindaraju led a team who pioneered the world's first autonomous system capable of deciphering handwritten addresses. Operating at a remarkable speed of 13 mail pieces per second, the system proficiently reads addresses on nearly all handwritten mail in the United States in real-time, resulting in billions of dollars in savings for the postal service and is widely regarded as one of the first success stories in AI; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Govindaraju received his undergraduate degree with honors in computer science from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India and his master's and Ph.D. degrees in computer science from UB; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Govindaraju has spent his entire career at UB, first working as a research scientist at the Center of Excellence for Document Analysis and Recognition (CEDAR) and went on to earn the title of SUNY Distinguished Professor, the highest faculty rank in the SUNY system. Dr. Govindaraju is the founding director of the Center for Unified Biometrics and Sensors and has remained its director since its inception in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Govindaraju has been honored by several exceptional organizations, including receiving the 2001 International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition Young Investigator Award; the MIT Global Indus Technovator Award; the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' Technical Achievement Award; the Indian Institutes of Technology Distinguished Alumnus Award; and was named a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Amherst Town Board recognizes **Dr. Venu Govindaraju** for his extraordinary contributions and joins CHAI in celebrating his Person of the Year designation.






Brian J. Kulpa, Supervisor



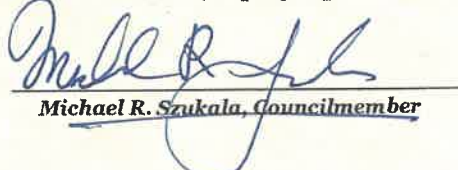
Shawn A. Lavin, Deputy Supervisor



Jacqueline G. Berger, Councilmember



Angela Marinucci, Councilmember



Michael R. Szukala, Councilmember

December 14, 2024