

2024 -- H 8101

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING JERRY ZARRELLA JR. ON WINNING THREE AWARDS FROM
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOMEBUILDERS AT THE PRESTIGIOUS 2024 BEST
IN AMERICAN LIVING (BALA) AWARDS CEREMONY

Introduced By: Representatives Caldwell, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Shanley, Speakman,
Fenton-Fung, Ajello, Fogarty, Ackerman, and McGaw

Date Introduced: March 26, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Over the past forty years, the Best in American Living Awards has been the
2 building industry's preeminent residential design award program. The 2024 award ceremonies
3 were held in Las Vegas in February with Rhode Island's renowned builder, Jerry Zarrella Jr.,
4 being honored with three coveted awards; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Zarrella's awards were in recognition of the imaginative and striking
6 renovations and remodeling accomplishments at the Magnolia Cottage, an 1850s cottage that had
7 suffered from decades of neglect, and which is now a crown in the beautiful Rope Walk Hill
8 development area; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Zarrella, who grew up in East Greenwich, is a second-generation
10 builder, who possesses a keen eye for infill projects and historic renovations. After attending
11 college, he joined the family's business, and began plotting his future path. With expertise in
12 home energy efficiency, he studied the housing market and developed a plan to convert the
13 current building mode of sprawling neighborhood development into a building density design,
14 which eventually led to his award-winning "Pocket Neighborhoods"; and

15 WHEREAS, With his ability to envision the potential of long-blighted, and often-
16 overlooked neighborhoods, Mr. Zarrella earned three of this year's BALA Awards by
17 transforming Rope Walk Hill, which was once known for dilapidated buildings and broken
18 windows, into one of the most desirable locations in the Hill and Harbour Historic District, as
19 well as in all of southern New England; and

1 WHEREAS, In the Remodel Category at the BALA Awards, Mr. Zarrella took First
2 place, for his "Entire Home Remodel", First place, for his "Kitchen Remodel", and Second place,
3 in the category of "Historical Renovation" for his work in taking the abandoned Magnolia House
4 building, which was on an overgrown lot with a 12-unit mixed-income cottage cluster pocket
5 neighborhood, and metamorphosing it into a design so perfect that numerous communities now
6 use it as a model on which to base their own cottage cluster ordinances, and so successful that it is
7 consistently emulated by other developers; and

8 WHEREAS, No stranger to recognition for his outstanding work throughout his career,
9 Mr. Zarrella has also been awarded six National Awards, having previously earned three BALA
10 awards, including two first-place honors, for the Castle Street condos in East Greenwich, and the
11 Silver Street Cottages, which were one of the first "pocket neighborhoods" in Rhode Island, and
12 were named the suburban infill community of the year; and

13 WHEREAS, Jerry Zarrella Jr. has been beautifying our Ocean State and transforming our
14 neighborhoods, and he is eminently deserving of our recognition and gratitude; now, therefore be
15 it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
17 congratulates Jerry Zarrella Jr. on winning three prestigious awards from the National
18 Association Of Homebuilders at the 2024 Best In American Living (BALA) Awards Ceremony.
19 We moreover wish him and the Zarrella Development Corporation many more years of building
20 on their success; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Jerry Zarrella Jr.

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