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**Governor Appoints Commissioner Rodriguez to
New York State HEAP Advisory Council**

Roberto Rodriguez, Commissioner, Ulster County Department of Social Services, has been appointed by Governor David Paterson to the Heat and Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Block Grant Advisory Council (BGAC). Commissioner Rodriguez accepted the Governor's appointment stating, "I am happy for the appointment because it puts Ulster County at the table where policy decisions are made. Our first hand experience with Ulster Winter Watch will be instrumental at these sessions." Chairman of the Legislature David Donaldson stated "This is an exciting opportunity for Ulster County and more particularly Commissioner Rodriguez. His appointment is a testimony to his knowledge and energy on this issue."

The Council is composed of representatives from State and local government, energy suppliers and low income advocates who are consulted in the development of the HEAP State Plan and on the coordination of energy-related programs. Established in 1982, there are sixteen BGAC seats: eight appointments by the Governor, four appointments by the Senate and four appointments by the assembly. For more information contact Roberto Rodriguez, Commissioner, Ulster County Department of Social Services, 845-334-5221.