

Authorizing And Directing Purchase Of Defibrillators (AED's) By Purchasing Agency On Behalf Of This County And Its Residents and Businesses And Amending Budget

The Mental Health / Public Health / Residential Services Committee (Chairmen Busick and Roberti and Legislators Alfonso, and McAfee, R.S. Parete, Provenzano, and Stoeckeler) and Legislators Bartels, Berardi, Dart, Donaldson, Feldmann, Hyatt, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, R.A. Parete, Rodriguez, Shapiro, and Zimet and offer the following:

WHEREAS, the United States Food & Drug Administration recently approved an initiative to let consumers purchase Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) for home use, and

WHEREAS, an AED is a small, portable device that analyzes the heart's rhythm and prompts the user to deliver a defibrillation shock if it determines the need, and

WHEREAS, 90% - 95% of sudden cardiac victims succumb because they do not have access to the quick, easy-to-administer lifesaving treatment AED's offer, while 80 percent of the instances of sudden cardiac arrest, which is best treated by a shock from a defibrillator, happen at home, and

WHEREAS, sudden cardiac death accounts for approximately 340,000 deaths outside of health care settings each year, and

WHEREAS, by raising awareness of sudden cardiac death and by improving access to AED's, the survival rate will increase, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature understands the importance of these life-saving devices by supporting the placement of external defibrillators in county owned buildings, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of Ulster County and all of its residents that these devices be broadly and readily available at the most affordable price possible, and

WHEREAS, coordinated and bulk purchases of AED devices for use by schools and public gathering places has already demonstrated the immediate and dramatic effect of significantly reducing the cost of each individual unit and the potential for further savings is even greater with coordinated and bulk purchases for home use, and

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[WHEREAS, a \$75,000 member item was previously received from Senator Bonacic for 50 AED's to be placed in public locations and businesses in Ulster County through the direction and training from the American Red Cross, and]

WHEREAS, the Mental Health/Public Health/Residential Services Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, and

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval.

RESOLVED, that consumers and certain county employees shall receive training by a recognized organization that is approved by Ulster County, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the consumers purchasing the devices shall sign an agreement holding Ulster County harmless and indemnifying; and the hold harmless/indemnification agreement shall be included in each agreement, which will be prepared by the county attorney, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature shall mandate the placement of Automated External Defibrillators in all county owned and leased buildings, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature implores every home, business and community gathering place be equipped with an automatic external defibrillator, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Purchasing Agent is authorized and directed to advertise for bids for the purchase of Automated External Defibrillators for the County, and as part of the bid conditions, the successful bidder shall provide a certain number of devices (to be determined based on a showing of interest) at the bid price to members of the public residing or businesses located in the County, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Legislature is authorized to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with other counties or municipalities to provide for joint purchases of such devices with such other public entities on their own behalf, and for their residents and businesses, and

