

Supporting The Joint Application By Orange, Ulster, Sullivan And Neighboring Counties To The New York State Department Of State's 2008-2009 Local Government Efficiency Grant Program For The Purposes Of Seeking Funding For A High Priority Planning Grant To Enter Into Study Of Regional Collaboration In The Administration Of Jails With The Intent To Achieve Cost Savings And Economies Of Scale

The Criminal Justice and Safety Committee (Chairman Dart and Legislators Briggs, R.A. Parete, Zimet, Hansut, Maloney and Ronk) offers the following:

WHEREAS, the operating costs of the Ulster County Jail are budgeted for \$12,780,540.00 in 2009, and

WHEREAS, this is only one element of an increasingly costly and complex system in Ulster County for dealing with offenders, and

WHEREAS, the nation and the state are in the midst of a major economic and fiscal crisis which will reduce the resources available to the state and county governments to pay for all services, including criminal justice services, and

WHEREAS, it is the highest priority of Ulster County to avoid increasing the burden on local taxpayers who are themselves feeling great financial pressure from the fiscal crisis,

WHEREAS, the recently built Ulster County jail has capacity that may be used in support of other counties in the Hudson Valley avoiding capital costs while providing additional revenue to Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, regional collaboration in jail administration in the Hudson Valley more generally holds promise for reducing jail operating costs for Ulster County and other regional counties, and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Report of the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness strongly urged regional approaches to jailing by counties in New York State, and

WHEREAS, Pattern for Progress, the regional planning agency, working with the Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CRREO) at SUNY New Paltz has facilitated meetings in which Ulster County has been represented to explore regional collaboration among counties in which reducing jail costs has emerged as a top priority, and

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WHEREAS, the New York State Department of State is offering “High Priority Planning Grants” of up to \$50,000 for 2009” to help identify and study Opportunities through collaboration among local governments to improve local government efficiency and cost savings for which there is a 10% matching requirement, and

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice and Safety 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 Ulster County is in support of a regional study of inter-county collaboration for which Orange County will take the lead to increase efficiency and reducing cost of providing corrections services in Ulster County and other Hudson Valley region counties, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature is authorized to apply for a 2008-2009 NYS DOS Local Government Efficiency High Priority Planning Grant and will participate as a co-applicant in the above-specified application, in which the grant request will not exceed \$50,000.00 and in which Orange County will act as the lead applicant, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Ulster County will contribute an equal share of the 10% cash match required by the grant program, as reflected by the number of counties participating as co-applicants, and not to exceed the sum of \$2,000.00,

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and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 30 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Aiello, Felicello and Kraft)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
10% COUNTY MATCH NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000.00

1227