

**Laws & Rules, Governmental Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: August 14, 2017 – 6:30 PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Roberts
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Belfiglio, Donaldson, Lopez (arrived at 6:50 PM),
Loughran, R. Parete (left at 7:18 PM), Rodriguez, and Ronk
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Berky & J. Parete, Legislative Counsel Pascale, Carol Hargrove & Don Quesnell – UCAT, Chris Ludlow, Jack Aester & Billy Riccaldo – CSEA, Cindy Bell – LWV, Jennifer Clark – UC Attorney’s Office, Jamie Capuano – UC Budget Office

Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the July 17, 2017 meeting

Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator R. Parete

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Donaldson, Loughran, R. Parete, Roberts, Rodriguez & Ronk

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Minutes are **APPROVED**

Resolutions for the August 15, 2017 Session of the Legislature

Chairman Roberts advised the members that the Director and Deputy Director of UCAT were present to speak to two late resolutions.

LATE Resolution No. 343: Supporting A Grant Application To The NYS Department Of Transportation To Apply, Accept And Administer Public Transportation Modernization And Enhancement Funding For Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Investment Program And Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Execute Any Required Applications Or Agreements To Accept Funding- Department Of Public Transportation (UCAT)

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the County Executive to execute any applications or agreements with the NYS DOT for grant funding through the Public Transportation

Modernization And Enhancement Funding For Bus & Bus Facilities Capital Investment Program in the amount of \$1,551,311 for 2018-2020.

LATE Resolution No. 344: Supporting A Grant Application To The Federal Transit Administration To Apply, Accept And Administer 5339(B) Funding For Bus & Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program And Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Execute Any Required Applications Or Agreements To Accept Funding- Department Of Public Transportation (UCAT)

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the County Executive to apply and accept 5339(B) Funding For Bus & Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program in the amount of \$1,500,00: \$1,350,000 federal revenue dollars and \$150,000 county dollars.

Motion No. 2: Moved TO ADOPT Late Resolution Nos. 343 & 344

Motion By: Legislator Rodriguez

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Loughran

Discussion:

UCAT Director Hargrove explained that the county would lose the funding if the Legislature did not approve the Resolutions at their August meeting. She apologized for the late notice. Ms. Capuano from the Budget Office also apologized for the oversight. Legislator R. Parete expressed his disappointment with having to vote on contracts for over a million dollars with no time to review.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Donaldson, Loughran, R. Parete, Roberts, Rodriguez & Ronk

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution Nos. 343 & 344 are ADOPTED

Resolution No. 281: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 5 Of 2017, The Ulster County Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform and Accountability Law, To Be Held On Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 6:05 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 6:05 PM for the purpose of hearing public comment on Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2017.

Motion No. 3: Moved Resolution No. 281 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Loughran

Discussion:

Legislator Loughran stated that he would be scheduling an informational meeting on the law later in the month. Legislator R. Parete said that he was frustrated that there has been a campaign finance law introduced for more than two years and there was no attempt to try to work on that law before introducing this one. He added that he was concerned that the law permits contractors who do business with the county to contribute to campaigns. He also took issue with the makeup of the

oversight committee as well as some of the public financing components. Legislator Donaldson commented that the concept was correct, but the Legislature should take their time to go over the law. He suggested forming a sub-committee to review the law. Legislator Rodriguez said he was more than willing to serve on a sub-committee to review the law.

Motion No. 4: Moved TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 281

Motion By: Legislator Rodriguez

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion:

Chairman Roberts asked if any members of the public wanted to speak on the law. He recognized Mr. Chris Ludlow, Political Legislative Coordinator for CSEA Hudson Valley. Mr. Ludlow stated that they had several concerns with the law and would like to be involved in conversations moving forward. He said that CSEA had concerns with public financing and some inequities in the contribution limits. Legislator Donaldson suggested a subcommittee be formed and requested that CSEA representatives be included in the discussions.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Donaldson, R. Parete, Roberts, Rodriguez & Ronk

Voting Against: Legislator Loughran

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 1

Disposition: Resolution is POSTPONED

Resolution No. 320: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 15 Of 2016, (A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter Section C-101A And The Ulster County Administrative Code Section A 30-2A, To Amend The Powers And Duties Of The Ulster County Human Rights Commission)

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 15 of 2017

Resolution No. 321: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 16 Of 2016, (A Local Law Establishing A Comprehensive Ulster County Human Rights Law)

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 16 of 2017

Chairman Ronk suggested discussing Resolutions 320 and 321 together as they encompass the same subject.

Motion No. 5: Moved TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 320 & 321

Motion By: Legislator Loughran

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Donaldson, Loughran, R. Parete, Roberts, Rodriguez & Ronk

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions are BLOCKED**

Motion No. 6: **Moved Resolution No. 320 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Rodriguez

Discussion:

Chairman Ronk stated that he did not feel that the Resolutions were ready for adoption. He expressed concerns with parts of the law which included portions of the Westchester County law which did not apply to Ulster County, the amount of the fines, and the qualifications of the Human Rights Commission members. He suggested a subcommittee might be a productive mechanism to review the law. Chairman Roberts suggested that Chairman Ronk appoint a committee to review the law.

Legislator Rodriguez expressed his frustration with how long the law has been discussed. Legislator Donaldson stated that he was open to changes to the law which protected peoples' civil rights as long as there are also protections for people who are wrongfully accused. Legislator Belfiglio commented that during the public hearing a few members of the Human Rights Commission spoke about the need to more adequately fund the Commission for them to be able to enforce the provisions of the law. Chairman Ronk requested that the Chair of the Human Rights Commission be included in any notifications regarding meetings or discussions on the laws. Chairman Roberts asked if there were any volunteers to serve on the subcommittee. He appointed Legislators Loughran, R. Parete and Rodriguez.

Motion No. 7: **Moved TO POSTPONE Resolution Nos. 320 & 321**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Loughran, Lopez, R. Parete, Roberts, & Ronk
Voting Against: Legislators Donaldson & Rodriguez
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 2
Disposition: **Resolutions are POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 322: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 18 Of 2016, (A Local Law Prohibiting Discrimination On The Basis Of Gender Identity At Places Of Public Accommodation, Resort Or Amusement)

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 18 of 2016.

Motion No. 8: **Moved Resolution No 322 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Rodriguez

Discussion:

Chairman Ronk stated that several people attended the public hearing and commented on the amendment to the section regarding effective date. He advised the members that he had a proposal to bring to the committee and sponsor. He added that many of the speakers at the public hearing stated that they wanted to be treated equally. He informed the members that the law as written does not offer equal treatment, rather creates a super protected class. He recommended amending the law to read in the form attached.

The members discussed the proposed amendments and asked Legislator Berky if she, as the sponsor, would accept them. Legislator Berky responded that she worked closely with members of the LGBTQ community and other stakeholders and did not feel she could agree to any changes to the law without first consulting them.

Motion No. 9: Moved to **POSTPONE Resolution No. 322**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Lopez & Ronk
Voting Against: Legislators Donaldson, Loughran, Roberts, & Rodriguez
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 4
Disposition: **Motion TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 322 is DEFEATED**

Motion No. 10: Moved to **ADOPT Resolution No. 322**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Donaldson, Loughran, Roberts, & Rodriguez
Voting Against: Legislators Belfiglio, Lopez & Ronk
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 3
Disposition: **Resolution No. 322 is ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 323: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 6 Of 2017, (A Local Law Repealing The Wireless Communications Surcharge Authorized By Article Six Of The County Law Of The State Of New York; And Imposing The Wireless Communications Surcharges Pursuant To The Authority Of Tax Law § 186-G)

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 6 of 2017.

Motion No. 11: Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 323

Motion By: Legislator Donaldson

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Rodriguez

Discussion:

The members discussed that the fee was not a new fee, rather a new name for an old fee.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Donaldson, Lopez, Loughran, R. Parete, Roberts, Rodriguez & Ronk

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution No. 323 is ADOPTED

Legislator R. Parete stated that he had to leave and asked the Chairman if Resolution No. 342 – Appointing Board of Elections Commissioner could be taken out of order. He said he had concerns with election night reporting which he wanted to discuss with Ms. Dittus. Legislator Rodriguez stated that he advised Ms. Dittus that she did not need to attend the meeting. Chairman Ronk said that he also had some questions for her. Legislator Rodriguez said he would ask her to come to Caucus and Session the next evening.

Resolution No. 340: Adopting The Principles Of §446.13 Of The New York Code Of Rules And Regulations As The Policy Of Ulster County

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts §446.13 Of The New York Code Of Rules And Regulations as the policy of Ulster County.

Motion No. 12: Moved to AMEND Resolution No. 340 as attached

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

Discussion:

Chairman Roberts recognized Legislator J. Parete, sponsor of the Resolution to speak. Legislator J. Parete stated that people in Ulster County deserve respect, dignity and protection and after hearing the debate about the amendment in Proposed Local Law No. 18 of 2016 which some said would kill the law he felt that the county should adopt Governor Cuomo’s comprehensive and inclusive Executive Order to protect the transgender community. He presented the members with comments by state representatives on the Governor’s order. Chairman Ronk advised the members that he spoke to Mr. Rindler of the LGTBQ Community and he requested some standardizing of terms in the law. He suggested amendments to the law in the form attached.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Donaldson, Lopez, Loughran, Roberts, Rodriguez & Ronk

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7

Votes Against: 0
Disposition: AMENDMENT ADOPTED

Motion No. 13: Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 340 AS AMENDED
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Donaldson, Lopez, Loughran, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: Legislators Belfiglio & Rodriguez
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 2
Disposition: Resolution No. 340 is ADOPTED AS AMENDED

LATE Resolution No. 342: Appointing – Commissioner of Elections

Resolution Summary: This resolution appoints Ashley Dittus as Election Commissioner to fill a vacancy for a term effective immediately and ending on December 31, 2018.

Motion No. 14: Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 342
Motion By: Legislator Rodriguez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Loughran

Discussion:

The members had some concerns with operations at the Board of Elections but did not feel it was an appropriate time to discuss them.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Donaldson, Lopez, Loughran, Roberts, Rodriguez & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution No. 342 is ADOPTED

Chairman Roberts asked if there was any new or old business.

Legislator Rodriguez advised the members that he requested a September introduction for Proposed Local Law No 7 - Establishing The Ulster County Electrical Licensing Board And Providing For The Qualifications, Examination, Licensing And Regulation Of Electricians In Ulster County, New York, in order to give the members times to thoroughly review the law.

Chairman Roberts asked if there was any other business, hearing none.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Rodriguez

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:58 PM

Respectfully submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved: September 18, 2017