



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGISLATORS TO SEEK INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS TO HELP MANAGE GOLDEN HILL SALE PROCESS

KINGSTON: A majority of County Legislators are embracing changes to the by-laws, proposed by now-Legislature Chairwoman Terry Bernardo in 2011, to ensure the ability of independent citizens, and not just County Legislators, can be considered to serve on the Golden Hill Local Development Corporation.

The process to appoint the LDC members, supported by the entire Republican majority in the County Legislature, is as follows:

1. Individuals interested in serving on the LDC shall provide resumes or letters of interest from any and all interested parties, so that they are received by the Clerk of the County Legislature by 5:00 PM on February 3, 2012. Resumes or letters of interest can be sent to: Kbin@co.ulster.ny.us.
2. Resumes and letters of interest will be reviewed by members of the Ways and Means committee based on expertise in the areas of healthcare, business development, finance, and interest in human services;
3. From persons who have provided resumes or letters of interest, there shall be appointed by the Legislature, three persons who shall serve as Directors of the Golden Hill Local Development Corporation.

Republican members of the Legislature discussed the matter in public caucus on January 17. County Legislature Majority Leader Ken Ronk said, "The responsibility to transfer Golden Hill cannot be allowed to be politicized. We need to recruit those with talent in health, finance, and accounting to help identify the best buyer – and we need to take the politics out of this," Ronk noted.

Ways and Means Chairman Richard Gerentine said, "The Ways and Means Committee looks forward to reviewing resumes of interested persons. We want highly qualified people to serve on this important Board. It is the goal of our committee to make a recommendation and make appointments by the County Legislature in February."

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The motion of the Republican Caucus, and second endorsing the procedure for independent directors were made by Legislator Carl Belfiglio and Vice Chair Maloney. "I'm extremely happy with this process" said Maloney. "The most important thing to me is that the residents at Golden Hill and the taxpayers are protected, and I am sure that this process will do so."

Legislator Robert Aiello, Chairman of the Committee on Health and Personnel said, "Reaching out to experts in geriatric medicine, with experience in a residential setting can only be advantageous in this difficult transition."

Majority Whip Mary Beth Maio noted, "This process must be above politics. We urge the County Executive not to appoint his staff to the LDC. Staff who count on him for their jobs, will clearly act in his best interests and with his wishes, and not necessarily use their own, independent judgment. We are pleased to be on the same page with Comptroller Auerbach and hope the County Executive is as well. Independent Directorships are the most responsible way to address the sale of Golden Hill."

Resumes will be available for review by any Member of the Legislature and the public.

"I am very pleased that many Legislators are embracing the idea that a broader pool of people should be considered for the LDC Directorships. We proposed this to the County Executive, the County Attorney, and their specially hired Counsel from Rochester weeks ago. We are moving the Legislature forward consistent with the charter that we shape policy. We are willing to make the changes taxpayers need to provide more effective government," said Terry Bernardo, Chairman of the Ulster County.

Bernardo, over the past several days, met with many legislators of both political parties to discuss and develop this concept. "I know we have bi-partisan support for independent directors and thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for taking the time to share their thoughts on this issue with me," Bernardo concluded.