



# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **STATEMENT FROM TERRY BERNARDO** Chairman, Ulster County Legislature

“In the November 4, 2011 Daily Freeman, Legislator David Donaldson, a fellow Democrat (of Mr. Hein’s), called the Hein Administration’s actions with regard to Golden Hill “the big lie”. I am not going to call the County Executive a liar, but I was hoping for a more transparent process.”

“**Just last week**, with apologies for taking so long, his County Attorney offered proposed LDC by-laws to Legislative Counsel – after weeks of delay. Those proposed by-laws maintained the same system the County Executive had been promising all along– three appointees elected by the Legislature. Now, the very next week, after we solicited incredibly qualified, independent individuals, the County Executive has chosen to go the political route. That is disappointing and sad.”

“Six weeks into my time as Chairman, I have learned democracy is messy, and a bit slow, but a public process, not a back room deal is what matters most in ensuring the taxpayers are respected. Taxpayers deserved an up or down vote on the floor of the Legislature, based on by-laws the final version of which the County Attorney’s office ‘finalized’ last week. While an appointment by the Minority Leader is not something I wanted, it would have been acceptable had twelve Legislators, after a vote, been unable to find consensus. Sadly, that public debate and vote never will take place.”

“Political deals brought Ulster County the jail and the RRA. I was hoping County government would move away from that.”

“In the end though, it is not about who appoints, but about what gets done. The Republican Majority joins with Comptroller Auerbach in pursuing an independent process. We will conduct public interviews with several of the 12 taxpayers who were willing to serve as volunteers on this Board. We will have a transparent process, not a back room, partisan deal; and we will name to the actual Board highly qualified individuals, not Board Members whose livelihoods as County employees depend on what the County Executive, or I, want.”

“I challenge my colleagues in the Minority to appoint someone who is qualified, who has specialized training in healthcare, finance, or business. Going the political route is what has caused many problems in Ulster County. I will not be a part of it.”

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