



# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Statement on Executive's State of the County Address by Minority Leader Donaldson**

I first want to congratulate the County Executive for presenting the Legislature with a comprehensive vision for the people of Ulster County. His request for bi-partisan cooperation was greatly appreciated by the Democratic Minority, but I am extremely disappointed with my fellow Legislators in the Republican Majority that decided to show the very same petty party politics that most people are disgusted with.

The Republican Majority's response was disgraceful. Using quotes out of context and manipulating the facts to serve their own political purposes demonstrates the worse kind of "Karl Rove" divisive politics that should have no place in Ulster County government.

Majority Leader Kenny Ronk is an inexperienced attack puppy for even less experienced chairwoman that seem more bent on creating jobs for her Orange and Green County cronies that create her press and glamour pieces, than doing the people's business.

Terry Bernardo's plan to appoint members to the Golden Hill LDC was a sham. It was a process that excluded the Democratic Minority. It was made clear by her suppressing of resolutions introduced by the Minority that the Chairwoman had an agenda to shut the Minority out at all costs. In fact two committee chairmen, that she appointed, stated on the record that they never received a resolution that was submitted on time by Democratic Legislators. That was right after she claimed that she gave the resolution to them and it was they that prevented a hearing on the resolution. Another timely resolution that would allow the county to apply for \$60,000 in grant money was also never heard in committee because the Chairman of that committee, with the blessing of the Chairman of the Legislature, refused to allow it to be debated. I have always taken the stand that, "Let the debate decide if a resolution is worthy of passing". Hiding resolutions from committee is the type of disregard for the democratic process of debate that is counter to the very fiber of our society. In all my 18 years in the County Legislature, I have never encountered such raw political ambition coupled with such incompetence.

During all my time in the Legislature, whether serving in the Minority or when serving as the Chairman of the Legislature, I have worked very closely with many members of the rank and file Republican Caucus. I ask those rank and file Republicans to reject this type of self serving politics, join with the Democratic Caucus and work with the County Executive in his efforts to make our communities safer, increase the health care opportunities for our children, support homeless veterans and make life better for working families.

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