



# ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ULSTER COUNTY IMPLEMENTING MANDATORY HIRING FREEZE AND SPENDING RESTRICTIONS**

Ulster County Legislative Chairman David B. Donaldson announced today that Ulster County is immediately imposing a mandatory hiring freeze due to declining economic conditions. In consultation with County Administrator Michael Hein and Alan Lomita, D-Rosendale, Chairman of the Legislature's Ways and Means Committee, Donaldson said that the County's discretionary hiring freeze that was in effect has now become mandatory. The mandatory action, which takes effect immediately, includes: eliminating all hiring that is not essential to safety and health issues; a ban on all non-mandatory training and conferences; and no purchases of non-mandated related periodicals and publications. "The downturn in the national and state economy has forced us to take steps to prepare for anticipated reductions in revenue," Donaldson said. "Although we have been diligent and scrutinizing expenditures all along, we must now further restrict spending." "These actions combined with previously recommended budget cuts represent serious belt-tightening," Hein said. According to Lomita, "It is imperative that the County be pro-active in this crisis to better protect the residents of Ulster County." Requests from Department Heads to fill vacancies that are urgent, as well as approvals for mandatory conferences and trainings and essential purchases, will follow the standard procedure of requiring approvals from Committee Chairmen, the County Administrator and Chairman Donaldson. Donaldson said, "We have experienced cuts in federal funding as well as state funding. Something must be done with costs going up and revenues going down.