



# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GOLDEN HILL LDC APPOINTS 7<sup>TH</sup> BOARD MEMBER WITHOUT BOTHERING TO INTERVIEW ANY CANDIDATES AND AFTER LESS THAN TWO MINUTES OF DISCUSSION**

Today, five of the members of the Golden Hill Local Development Corporation met and appointed Dare Thompson to fill the 7<sup>th</sup> directorship of the Corporation. No interviews were done of any of the six people who were up for consideration for that position.

Voting in favor of Ms. Thompson, without wanting to do interviews were Democratic Legislator Jeanette Provenzano, and three appointees of County Executive Michael Hein - Marshall Beckman, J.J. Hanson, and Robert Sudlow. Hanson and Sudlow are both top Hein appointees and Beckman is a former Deputy County Executive of Hein's. One member, Dr. Michelle Iannuzzi-Sucich abstained from the vote, calling for a public interview of each of the six candidates.

"Imagine appointing someone to a critical Board without bothering to interview credible candidates. That makes no sense. It would never happen in the private sector," said the County Legislature's Vice-Chairman James Maloney, who was present at the LDC organizational meeting.

Ulster County Legislature Chairman Terry Bernardo and the Republican majority in the County Legislature insisted on an open and transparent process in selecting the two appointees Bernardo made, with public interviews of candidates.

Ultimately Bernardo appointed, with agreement from Maloney, and with the bi-partisan recommendation of the Ways and Means Committee, appointed a business-person and appraiser Michael Bernholz, and a Medical Doctor, Michele Iannuzzi- Sucich, who has substantial knowledge in the areas of elder care and geriatric medicine.

"You cannot have due diligence in electing board members without a public interview process to meet the candidates and ascertain their strengths and weaknesses. Turned away from this Board were another medical doctor, an accomplished attorney, a CPA, a long-time former Town Supervisor, and business development expert, all without an interview process," Bernardo said.

Bernardo stressed that she had no personal objection to the appointment of Thompson, a leader in the County's League of Women Voters organization. "Ms. Thompson may well have been the

best choice, she may not have been. Good government and corporate due diligence should have required public, independent interviews,” she said.

No other votes were taken during the meeting except to adjourn. The Board is also meeting next week, so interviewing the candidates and selecting them could have taken place next week.

“Selling Golden Hill is not something I supported. However, we need an open and transparent process. That did not happen today and is disappointing. That said, I am very proud of the two appointees made through the Legislature’s Ways and Means committee. The process can only get better, let’s hope it does,” Maloney concluded.