



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ULSTER COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHES WORK PLAN AND SEEKS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

(Kingston, NY) The newly formed Ulster County Public Safety Advisory Committee has met and left this organizational meeting with a work plan that will not only guide future meetings but will also bring forth community experts to lay testimony to the resources, the barriers, the County needs, the available data and the trends that Ulster County faces in the areas of public safety and substance abuse.

Committee Chairman Mary Wawro, an Ulster County Legislator from the Town of Saugerties and the Chair for the Social Services Committee, noted, "We have a lot of talent at the table. This framework will help us to focus on the five topic areas as identified in our enabling Resolution: identify ways in which to identify individuals who are at risk of causing violence, identify ways in which these individuals can be helped, identify other ways to prevent violence, examine how drug abuse and drug related crimes can be reduced, and identify ways in which to protect people in public places."

To that end, the Committee will have public forum-type meetings with various Ulster County service organizations being invited to present. The meeting topic areas were based on the enabling Resolution and include review current matters of public safety, review current matters of mental health, review ways in which to enhance the welfare of Ulster County residents, identify opportunities to increase safety in public areas such as schools, parks, and malls and identify educational opportunities for law enforcement personnel.

Dr. Dale Kimberlin, a Port Ewen Chiropractor, expressed "interest in learning more about the return on our investments. There have been a lot of good prevention programs that have come and gone. We need to hone in on what truly works and make sure we put the resources in areas of prevention and early intervention."

"I am proud to work with people deeply concerned about public safety in Ulster County. Our world has changed and so must we. Every idea is worth review and given the recent events in history, I'm convinced Public Safety isn't costly, it's priceless," noted Health and Personnel Committee Representative and Town of Esopus Legislator Carl Belfiglio.

Town of Rochester Supervisor and President of the Ulster County Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors, Carl Chipman, stated, "I'm really excited and appreciate the opportunity to be working with such a great group of people with such varied perspectives of the problems we face in regards to public safety. I really think that we can, as a group, make a difference in making Ulster County a safer place to live, learn, work, and play."

Other members of the Public Safety Advisory Committee include Barbara Swift, Executive Director of Veritas Villa; Diane Mueller, Volunteer with Red Cross of the Mid-Hudson Valley; Thomas Kadgen from the League of Women Voters of the Mid Hudson Valley; Ulster County Undersheriff and President of the Ulster County Police Chief's Association Frank Faluotico, Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee representative Legislators Thomas (T.J.) Briggs from the Village of Ellenville, and Legislative Chairman Terry Bernardo from the Town of Rochester.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee is Monday, April 8, 2013 at 6:30 PM in the Karen L. Binder Library located on the 6th Floor of the County Office Building. The topic for this meeting will be to review current matters of public safety with public safety being defined as the prevention and protection of the Ulster County public from dangers affecting safety such as crimes and disasters. Anyone interested in presenting written or verbal testimony on this topic are asked to contact the Committee Clerk at 845-340-3696 or kbar@co.ulster.ny.us.

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