

Re-Authorizing the Update of the County-Wide Economic Development Strategy Ulster Tomorrow

Referred to: The Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee (Chairman Maloney and Legislators Berky, Delaune, Lapp, Litts, Maio and Rodriguez)

Legislators Hector Rodriguez, Jennifer Schwartz Berky and James H. Delaune offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature, Ulster County Development Corporation, Ulster County Industrial Development Agency and the Ulster County Planning Board created a partnership that led to the development of a Sustainable Economic Development Plan for Ulster County known as *Ulster Tomorrow*; and

WHEREAS, *Ulster Tomorrow* was a first of its kind effort in our community to engage business leaders, developers, environmentalists, public officials and the general public in a dialogue to advance all interests in the county; and

WHEREAS, *Ulster Tomorrow* engaged professional services and technical expertise in economic development planning and professional facilitation to assist the Steering Committee and the participants in reaching consensus; and

WHEREAS, *Ulster Tomorrow* produced several detailed reports on key economic sectors critical to the economic well-being of the County as identified by the public engagement process as well as identifying emerging sectors of our economy; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature recognized the importance of a plan that provides a sound basis for implementation of economic development strategies to coordinate the collective activities of the system and focus strategic economic development efforts; and

WHEREAS, the plan met this challenge establishing a collaborative framework to: advance new economic opportunities, improve living standards and quality of life, provide greater opportunities for the workforce, build stronger communities, and widen citizen participation as part of the policy discussion; and

WHEREAS, *Ulster Tomorrow* as seen as a living document and process that would be updated often, with periodic updates and public participation sessions; and

WHEREAS, an Industry Targeting Analysis for the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance prepared by Fairweather Consulting for UCEDA in November 2015 identified a continuation of the industry trends found in *Ulster Tomorrow* and affirmed the need to target those industries; and

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WHEREAS, in April 2008 the Ulster County Legislature passed Resolution 119, adopting *Ulster Tomorrow* as part of Ulster County's Comprehensive Plan; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature requests the County Executive to update *Ulster Tomorrow* by reconvening the stakeholders in Ulster County; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Legislature requests to be a collaborative partner in this process; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Legislature recognizing the need for public input and professional expertise, requests the Executive to engage in a collaborative process with the public/stakeholders to update the document and to utilize professional facilitation to achieve this; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature requests the Executive to conduct public information sessions and seek comments as needed or requested by individual municipalities and report back to the Legislature, on the conduct of those sessions and any comments received,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Postponed in the Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning, and Transit Committee on March 1, 2016

Postponed in the Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning, and Transit Committee on April 5, 2016

No Action Taken in the Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning, and Transit Committee on May 3, 2016

Passed Committee: Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit on _____.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE