

**Creating Housing Opportunities Throughout The County By Requesting The City Of Kingston Land Bank (“KCLB”) Expand Its Jurisdiction Outside Of The City Of Kingston And Promoting The Use Of County Owned Lands For Workforce Housing – Ulster County Planning Department**

Referred to: The Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee (Chairman Cahill and Legislators Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio, and Uchitelle)

Legislator Abe Uchitelle offers the following:

WHEREAS, this resolution has been submitted by the County Executive on behalf of the Planning Department, and

WHEREAS, the availability of safe, decent and affordable housing for all residents of the County is vital to the social and economic sustainability of our community; and

WHEREAS, providing a range of affordability to support individuals of all ages and stages of life that: allows younger generations to access housing, enables seniors to securely age in place; and assists families with children to meet their housing needs; requires a public policy response from the County; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County is desirous of expanding the housing opportunities to examine lands no longer needed for County purposes for their suitability for workforce/mixed income housing as well as facilitating the return of tax foreclosed properties to productive use outside of the normal auction process; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County acquires title to numerous properties that are vacant, distressed, or not in productive use for the non-payment of taxes that the County then disposes of at auction in accordance with Article 11 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law; and

WHEREAS, Article 16 of the New York State Not-for-Profit Corporation Law (the “Land Bank Act”) provides, as a primary focus, the use of the powers of a land bank to acquire real property that is tax delinquent, tax foreclosed, vacant and/or abandoned, eliminate the harms and liabilities caused by such properties, and facilitate their return to productive use; and

WHEREAS, the number of land banks that can be created under the Land Bank Act is limited and new land banks require approval of the Empire State Development Corporation; and

**Resolution No. 179      May 19, 2020**

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WHEREAS, the Empire State Development Corporation heavily favors intermunicipal cooperation when determining which municipalities are approved for a land bank; and

WHEREAS, the Kingston City Land Bank (“KCLB”) is a New York State Authority created pursuant to the Land Bank Act; and

WHEREAS, the KCLB has the ability to expand the area under its jurisdiction in coordination with Ulster County as an entity that has tax foreclosure powers; and

WHEREAS, the KCLB, if expanded with appropriate organizational and financial structures suited to its expanded geographic area, would be able to facilitate the return of vacant, abandoned and tax-delinquent properties county-wide to productive use; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby requests that ~~the KCLB in collaboration with~~ the County **in collaboration with the KCLB explore expansion of its of the KCLB’s** jurisdiction to lands outside of the City of Kingston consistent with the goal of providing increased affordable housing opportunities, while recognizing the need for an appropriate organizational and financial structure that protects the interests of all parties; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature requests the County Executive to inventory existing County-owned lands that no longer serve a county purpose to ascertain if they are suitable to meet the County’s housing goals,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

Passed Committee: Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit on May 5, 2020

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FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

Legislator Uchitelle motioned, seconded by Legislator Bartels, to amend the Resolution by striking some existing language and inserting new language in the first RESOLVED as indicated above.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 19<sup>th</sup> Day of May in the year Two Thousand Twenty, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of May in the year Two Thousand Twenty.

[s] Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature

Submitted to the County Executive this  
22<sup>nd</sup> Day of May, 2020.

Approved by the County Executive this  
27<sup>th</sup> Day of May, 2020.

[s] Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature

[s] Patrick K. Ryan  
Patrick K. Ryan, County Executive