

**Establishing A Hotline To Provide Support And Referral Information For Individuals Who Believe They Have Been Discriminated Against In The Ulster County Criminal Justice System**

Referred to: The Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee (Chairwoman Walter and Legislators Fabiano, Haynes, Heppner and Parete), and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gavaris and Legislators Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, Parete, Ronk, and Walter)

Chairwoman of the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee, Eve Walter, offers the following:

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 410 of October 15, 2019 established the Ulster County Criminal Justice Reform Task Force (UC-CJRTF) which has set forth to evaluate existing and potential criminal justice programs, to ensure the best and most cost-effective delivery of services, and to explore opportunities for program expansion to help the greatest number of county residents who may be in need of services; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature is in receipt of, and has reviewed the report of the UC-CJRTF; and

WHEREAS, the report finds that based on the 2019 arrest and conviction data collected by the New York Department of Criminal Justice, the rate of arrest of Black individuals in Ulster County is 39% higher than that of Whites; this jumps to 101% higher for felonies and 238% higher for drug felonies; further, while 51% of arrests for Whites resulted in a sentence conviction, the rate is 72% for Blacks; and

WHEREAS, as socio-demographics such as disability, income, sexuality etc. are not collected in arrest data potential discrimination based on these factors cannot be enumerated but likely exist; and

WHEREAS, measuring the true extent of discrimination experienced by individuals from police, attorneys, judges, probation and corrections officers is not possible; and

WHEREAS, while there are complaint processes in place for each area of the criminal justice system, most individuals are unaware of how to issue their complaints, should any arise; and

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force identified the need for the county to provide assistance to individuals who believe they have been discriminated against by an employee of the criminal justice system including law enforcement, attorneys, judges, and corrections officers and seek to properly report the incident; now, therefore be it

**Resolution No. 429      September 14, 2021**

**Establishing A Hotline To Provide Support And Referral Information  
For Individuals Who Believe They Have Been Discriminated Against  
In The Ulster County Criminal Justice System**

RESOLVED, that it is the policy of Ulster County to provide a hotline for community members who believe they have been discriminated against in our criminal justice system to call to receive support and referral information as to the appropriate place and method to report the discriminatory treatment; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature calls upon the Ulster County Human Rights Commission to administer and promote the hotline, and that it be dedicated solely for this purpose,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Passed Committee: Law Enforcement and Public Safety on \_\_\_\_\_.

Passed Committee: Ways and Means on \_\_\_\_\_.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
TBD