Establishing A Policy Against Suspicionless Warrant Checks At The Entrance Of Certain County Buildings

Referred to: The Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee (Chairman Richard Parete and Legislators Archer, Donaldson, Roberts, and Ronk)

Legislator Tracey A. Bartels offers the following:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Ulster County Charter, the Ulster County Legislature is the policy making branch of government; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature has determined that the safety of its citizens, employees and visitors is vitally important; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature has also determined that the civil and constitutional rights of the citizens is also vitally important; and

WHEREAS, Law Enforcement can, at its discretion, if it deems necessary for the protection of the visitors and employees, conduct weapons checks at certain public buildings and employ the use of both standing and hand held magnetometers to search for weapons, therefore insuring that weapons will not be brought into County buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature has further determined that suspicionless warrant checks are not necessary to ensure the safety of the employees and users of County buildings, and that suspicionless warrant checks could possibly subject the County to expensive and unnecessary litigation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that it shall be the policy of the County of Ulster that Law Enforcement personnel shall not conduct suspicionless warrant checks and/or warrant searches at the entrance of County buildings, or require users of County buildings to present identification for the purpose of undergoing warrant checks; and be it further

RESOLVED, this policy does not apply to the Ulster County Jail and shall not be deemed to prevent warrant checks by law enforcement personnel for other lawful purposes,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

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Resolution No. 458 December 17, 2014

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Defeated in Committee: Laws and Rules, Governmental Services on December 15, 2014

FINANCIAL IMPACT: NONE