

**Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: September 1, 2021 – 5:15 PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Fabiano & Haynes
ABSENT: Legislators Heppner & Parete
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislative Counsel Cueva, Sheriff Figueroa – UC Sheriff’s Office, Director Erichsen – UC Emergency Communications/Management, Director Doyle – UC Planning, Deputy County Executive Milgrim & Assistant Deputy County Executive Markowitz

Chairwoman Walter called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Chairwoman Walter began the meeting by presenting Sheriff Figueroa with a Legislative Proclamation declaring September 19 – 25, 2021 as Sheriff’s Week in Ulster County. She read the Proclamation thanked the Sheriff for everything he does for Ulster County.

Sheriff Figueroa thanked the members for their support and stated that serving as Sheriff is one of the most humbling experiences of his life.

Motion No. 1: Moved to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the August 5, 2021 Meeting

Motion By: Legislator Fabiano
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the September 14, 2021 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 384: Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) For COVID-19 Related Expenses – Emergency Management

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2021 Budget to allocate \$407,761 in American Rescue Plan funding to the Emergency Management/Emergency Communications Department to offset COVID-19 related expenses.

Motion No. 2: Moved Resolution No. 384 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion:

Chairwoman Walter asked if ARP funding is used to reimburse Emergency Management, will the county reserve the right to apply for FEMA reimbursement, with ARP funds then returned for other uses? Asked another way, will proceeding with the use of ARP funding prevent the county from applying for FEMA reimbursement?

Deputy Executive Milgrim stated that the items in the Resolution before the committee are not eligible for FEMA reimbursement; medical supplies and personnel costs. Chairwoman Walter asked if that was intentional and if there are other items that are FEMA reimbursable to be applied for in the future. Deputy Executive Milgrim responded that there were many other items which met the FEMA criteria. He added that the FEMA reimbursement timeline is significantly longer than the ARP process. Chairwoman Walter asked if a list of ARP and FEMA qualified items could be supplied to the Ways & Means Committee. Director Erichsen stated that the FEMA application is broken down into categories. Deputy Executive Milgrim stated that they had summaries of ARP allowable expenses.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 385: Adopting and Issuing A Negative Declaration Under 6 NYCRR Part 617 State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) By The Ulster County Legislature For The Construction Of A Public Safety Radio Tower and Appurtenances To Be Located At 35 Quarry Road Saugerties New York – Department Of Emergency Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts and issues a negative declaration under SEQRA for the Public Safety Radio Tower to be constructed at 35 Quarry Road in the Town of Saugerties

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 385 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion:

Legislator Haynes asked who owned the property on Quarry Rd. Planning Director Doyle responded that the county owned the property.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 386: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$156,121.20 Entered Into By The County – T-Mobile USA, Inc. – Emergency Management

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the execution of a contract with T-Mobile in the amount of \$156,121.20 for a license for use of space on the Golden Hill Tower for 9/1/21 – 8/31/26

Motion No. 4: **Moved Resolution No. 386 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Fabiano
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 387: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Accept A Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Grant - Police Traffic Services - Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute an agreement with the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee the amount of \$11,220.00 (\$2,400 for Seat Belt Mobilization Enforcement & \$8,800 for Regular Police Traffic Services Enforcement) for the term of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

Motion No. 5: **Moved Resolution No. 387 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Fabiano
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes

Discussion:

Chairwoman Walter asked Sheriff Figueroa to give a brief summary of the program. Sheriff Figueroa advised the members that the funding is for seat belt safety enforcement, formerly known as the Buckle Up NY program.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 388: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$8,162.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – New York Communications Company, Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with NYCOMCO in the amount of \$8,162 for the period 5/31/21 – 12/31/21 to extend the term of agreement for lease of radio equipment for URGENT

Motion No. 6: **Moved Resolution No. 388 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Fabiano
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 389: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services For The Aid To Defense Program – Public Defender

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute an agreement with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for \$13,616 for the Aid to Defense Program through March 31, 2022

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 389 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion:

Chairwoman Walter advised the members that the Public Defender was asked to attend, but was not at the meeting. She asked Deputy Executive Milgrim to reach out to Ms. Boyer and request that she attend as she has not been at a meeting since her appointment. Legislator Fabiano added that it is important for department heads to be present to explain Resolutions and answer any questions the members may have. Chairwoman Walter said that Ms. Boyer could elect to send a representative if she cannot attend herself.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Chairwoman Walter advised the members that the remaining resolutions are a result of the work of the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force and were part of the presentation given at the August Legislative Session.

Resolution No. 422: Establishing A Policy To Identify County Positions That Work Directly With Crime Victims And Persons Accused Of Crimes

Resolution Summary: This resolution establishes a policy to identify county positions that work directly with crime victims and persons accused of crimes, including, but not limited to: all job titles, including vacant positions, in the county with responsibilities relating to the administration of criminal justice services, and positions that work directly with crime victims and persons accused of crimes, in the County Departments of Probation, Public Defender and Conflict Administrator, and in the Elected Offices of the District Attorney, and Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution No. 423: Requesting Mandatory Restorative Justice Training For County Personnel Working Directly With Crime Victims And Persons Accused Of Crimes

Resolution Summary: This resolution urges the Ulster County Executive to require and implement a Restorative Justice Training Program for the employees identified in the report as referenced in Resolution No. 422 of 2021.

Motion No. 8: **Moved to BLOCK Resolution Nos. 422 and 423**

Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions BLOCKED**

Motion No. 9: **Moved blocked Resolutions FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion:

Chairwoman Walter explained that the two Resolutions work together. She added that 422 requires the identification of positions in the county in the Departments of Probation, Public Defender and Conflict Administrator, and in the Elected Offices of the District Attorney, and Ulster County Sheriff that work directly with individuals accused of a crime or crime victims. She stated that 423 then request the Executive to offer Restorative Justice trainings to those individuals.

She advised the members that the Department heads and elected officials referenced support the policy. She added that the training is already offered by Family of Woodstock, so there shouldn't be any added cost.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 424: Establishing A Policy Requiring An Ulster County Crisis Stabilization Center, And Requesting The Initiation Of The Procurement Process To Secure Services For Individuals Experiencing Mental Health And/Or Substance Use Crisis

Resolution Summary: This resolution establishes a policy to have a Crisis Stabilization Center which operates 24 hours/day, 7 days per week, with sufficient staffing including: administrative staff, credentialed alcohol and substance abuse counselors (CASAC), social workers and/or otherwise licensed counselor, case managers, and certified recovery peer advocates (CPRA); with priority given to individualized with personal lived recovery experience for mental health illness or substance abuse.

Resolution No. 425: Establishing A Policy Requiring Respite Houses In Ulster County, And Requesting The Initiation Of The Procurement Process To Secure Services For Individuals Seeking Mental Health And/Or Substance Use Recovery Assistance

Resolution Summary: This resolution establishes a policy to have 7-10 day Respite Houses in Ulster County, geographically spread out across the county, providing a minimum of eight beds overall, available to any resident of Ulster County ages 18 years old and over, with staffing for each home to include: administrative staff, crisis specialists, case managers, and administrative support.

Motion No. 10: Moved to **BLOCK Resolution Nos. 424 and 425**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion:

Chairwoman Walter advised the members that the committee of original jurisdiction should be the Public Health Committee.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions BLOCKED**

Discussion:

She asked the members if there were any questions before the vote to refer. Legislator Haynes stated that she did not have any questions at this time and agreed that the subject should be discussed in the Public Health Committee. should

Motion No. 11: Moved TO REFER blocked Resolutions to the Public Health & Social Services Committee
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion:

Chairwoman Walter advised the members that the County Executive's Office had reviewed the Resolutions and had not issue with them per Deputy Executive Rider. Deputy County Executive Milgrim stated that they were still waiting on the Mental Health Task Force's report and recommendations. Chairwoman Walter stated that Deputy Executive Rider indicated that and RFP for the services was already being drafted. Legislator Haynes asked for confirmation that the services would be sought through the RFP process. It was confirmed that an RFP would be required.

The members discussed whether the resolutions should be referred to Health with the committee's support. Legislator Haynes stated that she had some questions and concerns regarding the respite houses and would be reserving them until after the Health committee has reviewed the resolutions.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions REFERRED to the Public Health & Social Services Committee**

Resolution No. 426: Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Create A Professional Standards Supervisor Position – Sheriff's Office

Resolution Summary: This resolution creates a full time Professional Standards Supervisor position in the office of the Sheriff at an estimated annual salary of \$85,838 to: oversee audits, quality assurance, and policy for that office and its members, conduct team inspections, uphold the Sheriff's Office Code of Conduct and investigate and claims of violation.

Resolution No. 427: Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Create A Crisis Intervention Team Manager Position – Sheriff’s Office

Resolution Summary: This resolution creates a full-time Crisis Intervention Team manager position in the office of the Sheriff at an estimated annual salary of \$50,865 to: oversee crisis intervention trainings, including de-escalation and peer-to-peer mental health support trainings, evaluate and recommend potential revisions in law enforcement policy, create, implement, and regularly evaluate a triage diversion plan for individuals presenting with a mental health crisis to law enforcement.

Motion No. 12: Moved to **BLOCK Resolution Nos. 426 and 427**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions BLOCKED**

Motion No. 13: Moved blocked Resolutions FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion:
Chairwoman Walter stated that she would like to take no action on the resolutions at the meeting, adding that she is expecting the positions to be included in the 2022 Budget. She informed the members that if the positions were not included in the budget, she would ask the members to revisit the subject. She asked fi the members that any questions before they moved on.

Legislator Fabiano asked what the duties of the professional standards position would be. Sheriff Figueroa responded that the responsibilities are currently collateral duties of a Lieutenant. He advised the members that the person would be responsible for internal affairs, equal employment opportunity compliance with new laws, reviewing FOIL files, conducting audits. He added that the person will not be affiliated with any unions and will be independent. He stated that he feels strongly that the person who does internal affairs should not a member of the union and that the work should not be a collateral duty.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **NO ACTION TAKEN**

Resolution No. 428: Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Create A Criminal Justice Discrimination Support Referral Specialist – Human Rights Commission

Resolution Summary: This resolution creates a part-time Criminal Justice Discrimination Support Initiative Referral Specialist position in the Human Rights Commission Budget at an estimated annual salary of \$23,894 to provide a support and referral system for community members who feel they have been discriminated against in our criminal justice system.

Motion No. 14: **Moved Resolution No. 428 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Fabiano
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes

Discussion:

Chairwoman Walter stated that she had the same intention as the previous resolutions to take no action and reevaluate once it is known whether the position was included in the 2022 budget. Legislator Haynes asked what was seen that would warrant the creation of an additional position. Chairwoman Walter responded that the Human Rights Commissioner advised the CJRTF that he receives many calls from people who feel they have wronged in some way but is not related to a human right violation. She added that the HR Commission is not a referral unit but is spending a lot of time directing people on how to handle their issue. She added that the other part was a concern that people don't know what to do when they have a concern with the Sheriff's Office vs. the District Attorney vs. a judge, etc.

Legislator Haynes stated that she answers numerous calls of a similar nature at her full-time job and asked how many calls they have been receiving. Chairwoman Walter stated that the person would be well trained on the different processes for filing complaints against the different facets of the criminal justice system. Sheriff Figueroa stated that there was someone who wanted to file a complain against the Sheriff's Office, but was uncomfortable going to the Sheriff's Office because they were afraid of law enforcement. He added that a person like that would benefit from an intermediary.

Chairwoman Walter advised the members that the Task Force also recognized that the position could direct individuals to community restorative Justice services as well. She asked if there were any further questions.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **NO ACTION TAKEN**

Resolution No. 429: 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

Resolution Summary: This established 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.

Motion No. 15: **Moved Resolution No. 429 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion:

Chairwoman Walter advised the members that the resolution creates the hotline discussed as part of the previous resolution. She stated that the members could either proceed without having created the position or keep the two resolutions grouped and advance them together. Legislator Fabiano stated his preference to keep them together.

Legislator Haynes stated that she would prefer to move forward with the hotline separately in case the position isn't created, the hotline would still be created. Chairwoman Walter added that the creation of the hotline and the number of calls it receives could serve to support the creation of the position.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 430: Establishing The Ulster County Law Enforcement Community Advisory Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution establishes the Ulster County Law Enforcement Community Advisory Board as a centralized community advisory group tasked with supporting and evaluating the implementation of the reform plans approved for Ulster County as a result of EO203 for efficacy, efficiency, and compliance, to ensure the best and most cost-effective delivery of services as well as to discuss implementation, and barriers to implementation, of plans within individual municipalities

Motion No. 16: **Moved Resolution No. 430 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 431: Requesting The Initiation Of The Procurement Process To Secure Re-Entry Services For Individuals Serving Time In The Ulster County Jail

Resolution Summary: This requests the County Executive, in consultation with the Ulster County Sheriff, develop and initiate the request for proposals (RFP) procurement process to contract for the implementation and provision of re-entry services to Ulster County jail inmates including creating discharge plans that connect incarcerated people to housing, mental health treatment, and jobs prior to release; and increasing job training programs to upskill incarcerated people and connect them to jobs upon release.

Motion No. 17: **Moved Resolution No. 431 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion:

Chairwoman Walter asked if the Sheriff would like to speak to the initiative. Sheriff Figueroa stated that the current reentry services are limited to when an inmate leaves but does not follow them after. He added that this initiative can help to reduce recidivism, which is an important component in investing in people. Chairwoman Walter stated her hope that the Sheriff would be included in the discussions and development of the RFP.

She advised the members that Family of Woodstock applied to NIH for a grant to offer these services but added that the grant is super competitive and may take months before they hear about the award. Legislator Haynes asked if there were pilots in other areas that were successful that could be duplicated. Chairwoman Walter stated that this type of reentry program currently exists in the state prison system. Sheriff Figueroa said they try to work with inmates while they are in the jail, but once the person leaves, there is no follow up. Legislator Haynes stated she supported the idea.

The members briefly discussed possibilities if Family did receive the NIH grant and the differences between inmates in county jails vs state prisons. The members agreed that any time spent in county jail is a red flag that an individual is in need of some sort of help or service.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Chairwoman Walter asked if the members had any new or old business. Hearing none she advised the members that Legislator Parete sent an email apologizing for missing the meeting and stating that he had a commitment from the NYS Crime Commission to participate in the round table discussion, and he would have a draft letter and list of invitees for the next meeting.

Chairwoman Walter advised the members that the resolution previous discussed for introduction for the initiative to identify individuals at risk of committing violent acts would not be introduced as the Sheriff and Executive recently announced the AVERT program which seeks to do just that. She asked if that was going to be part of the 2022 budget. Sheriff Figueroa stated that he had gotten together with the Executive and City of Kingston Police Department to start the program. Legislator Fabiano stated his support or the program and asked if the program would be started in 2022. Sheriff Figueroa responded that parts of the program are already being worked on/in place.

Chairwoman Walter stated that the second resolution previously discussed for introduction was funding for the Ulster Prevention Council for community level responses to violence in Saugerties, Ellenville and New Paltz. She advised the members that she had reached out o Cheryl DePaolo at Ulster Prevention to ask for her input on how the plan would work, how much it would cost, what UC Prevention would need, etc. and she had not heard back from her yet. She said she would follow up, adding that it likely would not materialize until 2022.

She asked the members if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Fabiano
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:55 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler
Approved: October 4, 2021