

## **ULSTER COUNTY NEWS**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Nina Postupack, County Clerk (845) 340-3040

## Passport Agency Notifies County Clerk Nina Postupack Of Changes In Passport Application Processing Times

Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk announces that she has been notified by the United States Passport Services that processing times for passport applications have increased due to the high volume of applications received at the Passport Centers. These delays are due to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative which took effect January 23, 2007 and requires a United States passport for all United States citizens traveling by air to Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda.

County Clerk Postupack states, "Normally, routine passports are received within six weeks. Currently this processing time has increased to ten weeks, due to the large volume of applications. Also, expedited passports are now taking three to fours weeks instead of the normal two week processing time." Customers can check the status of their application online by going to <a href="http://www.travel.state.gov">http://www.travel.state.gov</a>.

County Clerk Postupack urges residents to apply for a passport far in advance of their travel plans. Processing of applications can be done at the County Clerk's Office, 244 Fair Street,

Kingston from 9:00 AM to 4:45 PM Monday through Friday. To begin the passport application process an individual must have a certified birth certificate, passport photos and a photo license with required fees. Passport applications, fee information and detailed instructions can be obtained from the Ulster County Clerk website, <a href="http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/countyclerk">http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/countyclerk</a>.

Ulster County Clerk Nina Postupack encourages all County residents with questions regarding this or any other matter to contact her at (845) 340-3040.