

OPENING POLITICAL CAUCUSES OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO THE PUBLIC

Legislators Aiello, Alfonso, Bartels, Berardi, Busick, Cummings, Dart, DePew, Donaldson, Every, Feldmann, Felicello, Gerentine, Harris, Hathaway, Hyatt, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, Maloney, McAfee, Meyer, Noonan, Richard Parete, Robert Parete, Provenzano, Roberti, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Stock, Stoeckeler, Tipp and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Legislative Declaration of Article 7 of the New York State Public Officers Law, meetings of public bodies to conduct public business should be open to members of the public and the press, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature resolves to further regulate our procedures and conduct beyond the provisions of Section 108 of the Open Meetings Law, which does not require that deliberations of political caucuses be held in public, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with this political caucuses, as historically conducted, within the Ulster County Legislature shall be opened to the public on County owned or leased property, and

RESOLVED, the intent of this declaration shall be consistent with the Legislative Directive of Article 7 of the New York State Public Officers Law, and

RESOLVED, that all political caucuses or meetings which are called or intended for the purpose of considering or discussing proposed resolutions or local laws, that are held on county owned or leased property, shall be open to the public if attended by at least a majority of the legislative members of the political party conducting such caucus,

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature supports the intent of this resolution to prohibit such political caucuses as above described from deliberating behind closed doors on all property owned or leased by the Ulster County government, and

RESOLUTION NO. 161 MAY 13, 2004

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FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature recommends and supports an amendment to the New York State Public Officers Law, Article 7, Section 108, to allow party caucuses or conferences to be open in the State Senate and Assembly,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 30

NOES: 2

Legislators Gerentine and Felicello
(Absent: Legislator Hyatt)

Legislator Kraft motioned, seconded by Legislator Lomita to add a fourth resolved that Resolution 161 becomes part of the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature.

MOTION DEFEATED:

AYES: 15

NOES: 17

(Legislators Aiello, Alfonso, Busick, Cummings, DePew, Every, Felicello, Gerentine, Harris, Hathaway, Maloney, McAfee, Meyer, Noonan, Roberti, Stock and Tipp)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

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