

Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into A Preliminary Planning Agreement With The New York State Office For Technology Relative To The Statewide Wireless Network – Emergency Communications/Emergency Management

The Criminal Justice and Safety Committee (Chairman Dart and Legislators Distel, Gregorius, R.A. Parete, Zimet, Aiello and Every) offers the following:

WHEREAS, the myriad of radio systems in use today by both Ulster County government and the various emergency service agencies in the County are on different bandwidths which do not provide for interoperability, and

WHEREAS, some of these radio systems are outdated technology and provide only sporadic signal coverage, with many areas having no coverage at all, and

WHEREAS, New York State, through the Office for Technology, is implementing a statewide radio system called the Statewide Wireless Network, a system designed to provide both interoperability and 97% mobile radio coverage across the entire state, and

WHEREAS, the State is providing the infrastructure for this network, an investment that would not be financially possible for Ulster County to make, and

WHEREAS, while this system is being designed for State Agency use, it is being offered to County and local agencies willing to partner with the State with the aim of promoting maximum interoperability, minimizing the overall cost to all participants and minimizing the proliferation of towers, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office for Technology is willing to meet with interested local partners to discuss their level of involvement and necessary investment, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office for Technology requires a signed Preliminary Planning Agreement that indicates the County's desire to explore the concept, but which does not commit the County to participate if it finds the project either not feasible, not in the County's best interest, or which is too expensive, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Emergency Communications/Emergency Management Office has been involved with the Statewide Wireless Network since its inception and is willing to assemble and coordinate with other County Agencies and Departments having an interest in this project, as well as with the various emergency services wishing to participate, and

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice and Safety Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval.

Resolution No. 181 May 10, 2006

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RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature is hereby authorized to sign a Preliminary Planning Agreement with the New York State Office for Technology to investigate the feasibility of migrating some, or all, communications capabilities to the Statewide Wireless Network, as filed with the Clerk of the Legislature or as modified with the approval of the County Attorney,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 31 NOES: 0
(Legislator Stoeckeler left at 10:05 PM)
(Absent: Legislator Every)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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