

Requiring The Purchase And Use Of Low Or No Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Paints And Coatings In All County Facilities

Legislator Robert Parete, Co-Sponsors: The Environmental Subcommittee (Co-Chairmen Petit and Shapiro and Legislators Belfiglio, Robert Parete and Rodriguez), and Multi-Sponsors: The Governmental Services, Environmental and Administrative Committee (Chairman Roberts and Legislators Belfiglio, Fabiano, Petit, Ronk, Richard Parete, Robert Parete, Rodriguez and Shapiro) and Legislators Briggs, Donaldson, Gregorius, Hochberg, Lomita, Loughran, Madsen, Richard Parete, Provenzano, Sheeley, Stoeckeler and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature endeavors to provide a healthy work environment for all employees, and

WHEREAS, estimates demonstrate that Americans spend up to 90% of their time indoors. Many common items contain toxic chemicals that may lead to a variety of health problems, and

WHEREAS, as an operator of public buildings, Ulster County has an important responsibility to adopt and implement public policies and practices that seek to protect the long-term health of all those who work in and visit these properties, and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website, "Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. VOCs include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects. Concentrations of many VOCs are consistently higher indoors (up to ten times higher) than outdoors", and

WHEREAS, VOCs are emitted by a wide array of products numbering in the thousands, including traditional paints, and

WHEREAS, as the "green" product market continues to expand, more products and competition are available in the marketplace which will lower costs, and

WHEREAS, avoidance of toxic substances and conditions, as they might influence not only the environment but human health more directly, is a longstanding concern of the Ulster County Legislature, and

WHEREAS, Green Seal is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to safeguarding the environment and transforming the marketplace by promoting the manufacture, purchase, and use of environmentally responsible products and services, and

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WHEREAS, the Governmental Services, Environmental and Administrative Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, Ulster County shall procure and use low- or no-VOC paints and sealers on all new, renovation and repair projects in county owned and leased facilities, and, be it further

RESOLVED, Ulster County shall procure and use low- or no VOC paints and coatings that meet Green Seal GS-11 Standards. Green Seal establishes requirements and GS-11 Standard for paints and coatings, and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Director of Purchasing shall report to the Environmental Committee of the County Legislature on the procurement of low- or no-VOC paints on an annual basis, and, be it further

RESOLVED, Ulster County staff is permitted to deplete existing inventories. Implementation shall take effect by June 1, 2011.

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Legislator Belfiglio motioned, seconded by Legislator Hansut to refer the resolution back to the Governmental Services, Environmental and Administrative Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 17

NOES: 15

(NOES: Legislators Briggs, Donaldson, Gregorius, Hochberg, Lomita, Loughran, Madsen, Richard Parete, Robert Parete, Petit, Provenzano, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Stoeckeler and Zimet)

(Absent: Legislator Felicello)

(Legislator Rodriguez arrived at 7:17 PM)

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FINANCIAL IMPACT:
TO BE DETERMINED

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REFERRED BACK TO COMMITTEE