

Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Create A Local Re-Entry Task Force And Appoint A Chairman Of Said Task Force

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

WHEREAS, each year approximately 26,000 offenders are released from New York State prisons and return to local communities, and

WHEREAS, in November 2005, consistent with Governor Pataki's goal of making New York the safest state in the nation, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) issued a Request for Application (RFA) to New York's IMPACT Counties for grants to establish a local prisoner re-entry task force as a tool to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, and

WHEREAS, additional funding may become available through the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to eligible IMPACT Counties, and

WHEREAS, upon release from prison, many offenders have difficulties obtaining housing, securing employment, accessing treatment service and reunifying with their families, and

WHEREAS, research has shown, to the extent an offender who is employed, sober, in a stable living environment and moving toward self-sufficiency, has a greater chance of not committing further crimes, and

WHEREAS, re-entry is more than a criminal justice issue. Public, community and neighborhood organizations, criminal justice and human service agencies are all stakeholders in the broader issue of public safety, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that Ulster County should establish a Local Re-Entry Task Force of professionals in the Criminal Justice field and related fields who are currently working with individuals needing assistance to be part of a formal deliberative body to coordinate delivery of support services and securing interdisciplinary collaboration between the Criminal Justice, Social Services, Educational, Health and Mental Health systems during the re-entry process, and

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

Resolution No. 430 December 6, 2006

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RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature is hereby authorized to create a Local Re-Entry Task Force and appoint a Chairman of the Task Force, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this said Task Force be comprised of decision makers from Regional/Area Parole Office, local VESID Office, Sheriff's Office, local One Stop Center (DOL), Police Department of largest jurisdiction, OASAS Field Office (Addiction Specialist), Victim Advocacy Organization, Mental Health, Probation, Social Services, Faith Based Community Organization, Housing Consortium and Legislative members, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this said Task Force should meet monthly to review problems and concerns of an inter-agency nature, to review data concerning operational issues, and advise the Legislature through the Criminal Justice and Safety Committee regarding the need for their attention and action,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 31 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Alfonso and Every)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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