

Establishing An Ulster County Lyme Disease Advisory Committee

Referred to: The Health and Personnel Committee (Chairman Aiello and Legislators Belfiglio, Ronk, Robert Parete and Provenzano)

Legislator Robert Aiello, Chairman of the Health and Personnel Committee offers the following:

WHEREAS, the incidence of Lyme disease, and other tick borne illnesses, has steadily increased throughout the Northeast region of the United States, during the last decade, and

WHEREAS, as infected tick populations have steadily migrated west from the Atlantic shore of Connecticut, probable and confirmed cases of Lyme disease in Ulster County have recently surpassed those of Dutchess County and other surrounding communities, and

WHEREAS, public awareness and Lyme disease prevention education is recognized as an effective method of slowing the rate of increase of Lyme disease and tick borne illnesses, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Department of Health has enhanced its public outreach and education activities and programs, through the following:

- An annual cable TV and radio campaigns, with an emphasis Lyme disease awareness and prevention education.
- A countywide distribution of thousands of tick removal kits, along with safe and proper tick removal instructions.
- Prevention workshops at community centers, schools, health fairs, senior centers, faith based groups and other venues throughout Ulster County.
- Organized press events focused on Lyme disease awareness and prevention, conducted in partnership with the County Executive's Office, Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley and other community health organizations, and;
- A partnership with US Senator Charles Schumer to create a press event highlighting the threat of Lyme disease, along with effective prevention measures, and

WHEREAS, at a time when Lyme disease is recognized to be a more significant health threat than at any time in the past, New York State Department of Health grant funding for Lyme disease education and prevention has been cut in half, and

WHEREAS, in light of the serious threat that Lyme disease, and other tick borne illnesses, poses to the health and well-being of Ulster County residents combined with the reduction in related State aid, and

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WHEREAS, Ulster County needs to continue to take a proactive role in the prevention, education, and research of Lyme Disease to protect and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of Ulster County residents by examining public health policy decisions, disseminating information to the public, regularly reviewing published public and private treatment guidelines and other activities related to the diagnosis, prevention, and research of Lyme Disease, and now, therefore, it be

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Lyme Disease Advisory Committee is hereby created to study the spread of Lyme Disease and review the County's approach to this significant public health problem, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Advisory Committee shall consist of the following members:

- The Director of the Ulster County Department of Health or his designee, who will serve as chair;
- The County Executive or his/her designee;
- The Chair of the Ulster County Legislature or his/her designee;
- The Chair of the Ulster County Health and Personnel Committee;
- The Deputy Chair of the Ulster County Health and Personnel Committee;
- A member of the Ulster County Board of Health to be selected by the Director of the Ulster County Health Department;
- A representative of the health/scientific community dealing with Lyme Disease, chosen by the Chair of the Health and Personnel Committee;
- A resident of Ulster County who has been infected with Lyme Disease, chosen by the Chair of the Health and Personnel Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Lyme Disease Advisory Committee shall hold its first meeting no later than thirty (30) days after the approval of this resolution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the members of the Ulster County Lyme Disease Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation other than for actual and necessary expenses within appropriations made therefor, unless otherwise provided by resolution of the County Legislature, pursuant to Section C-16 of the Ulster County Charter and Section A2-11 of the Administrative Code, and be it further

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Lyme Disease Advisory Committee shall meet as needed to review current public health policies, the dissemination of information to the public, researchers, health care providers, and state and federal agencies, public and private treatment guidelines, and activities undertaken for the diagnosis, prevention, and research, and all other things related to Lyme Disease, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Ulster County Lyme Disease Advisory Committee shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the County Legislature, County Executive and Director of the Department of Health no later than six months subsequent to the effective date of this Resolution for consideration, review, and appropriate action, if necessary,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Roberts)

Passed Committee: Health and Personnel Committee on March 5, 2012

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

0310.2

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 20th day of March, 2012, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 22nd Day of March in the year Two Thousand and Twelve.

/s/ Karen L. Binder
Karen L. Binder, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

Submitted to the County Executive this
22nd Day of March, 2012.

/s/ Karen L. Binder
Karen L. Binder, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

Approved by the County Executive this
29th Day of March, 2012.

/s/ Michael P. Hein
Michael P. Hein, County Executive