



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
OFFICE OF ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
244 FAIR STREET
KINGSTON, NEW YORK, 12401

PHONE: 845.340-3900
FAX: 845.340.3651
www.co.ulster.ny.us
www.ulstercountyny.gov

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CONTACT: Craig Lopez
Legislator, District 14
(845) 382-9664

Legislators and Town Supervisor Unite and Demand Answers Regarding Opening of Ulster Heights Road

Wawarsing- Residents are furious that Ulster Heights Road remains unopened since being damaged from the wrath of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Legislator Craig Lopez is leading the charge to get answers for his constituents. After canceling their last scheduled appearance, representatives from the County's Department of Public Works Department will speak to the issue at the Wawarsing Town Board Meeting tomorrow, April 19, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Wawarsing Town Hall, 108 Canal Street in Ellenville, and Legislator Lopez intends to ensure concerned residents get the answers they are looking for.

"It was a huge disappointment that the leaders of the Public Works Department canceled last month, so I am pleased that they are finally answering to the public," said Legislator Lopez. "It is unacceptable that the residents have had to wait so long for information."

"It is deplorable that the road has been closed for 8 months," said Wawarsing Supervisor Scott Carlsen. "It is a County road, and therefore the County needs to be held accountable to the people."

Legislator T.J. Briggs, who represents the Village of Ellenville and part of Wawarsing, is a member of the Legislature's Public Works and Capital Projects Committee. With decades of experience in the EMS community, he has acted as a voice for Ulster Heights residents who are worried about the delay in Fire and EMS rescue, and their response times. Legislator Briggs has been on record since January questioning the opening of the road, and plans to attend Thursday's meeting.

Also planning to attend is the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature, Terry Bernardo, who fought a similar battle last year when advocating for the opening of the Kerhonkson Bridge. "We cannot allow Ulster Heights Road to turn into another Kerhonkson Bridge situation. The Legislature is committed to doing whatever it takes to facilitate fixing this situation, including finding money in the budget to fix the road if necessary."

Legislator Dean Fabiano, Chairman of the Public Works and Capital Projects Committee, said he is dedicated to ensuring Wawarsing residents obtain the answers they deserve. If Legislator Lopez is not satisfied with the answers given at Thursday's meeting, Chairman Fabiano is willing to call a special meeting of the Public Works and Capital Projects Committee in Wawarsing to further pursue the issue.

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