



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE MOVES FEBRUARY MONTHLY SESSION TO UPAC TO ENSURE SAFE PUBLIC ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

At the request of Chairman Terry L. Bernardo and Majority Leader Kenneth Ronk, the Ulster County Legislature is moving its monthly Legislative Session, scheduled for February 19, 2013 at 7:00 pm, from the Legislative Chambers to Ulster Performing Arts Center (UPAC), 601 Broadway, Kingston, New York.

Following consultation with NYS Committee on Open Government Executive Director Robert Freeman, it was recognized that a movement of session would meet the Open Meetings Legislative declaration and intent that "public business be performed in an open and public manner and that the citizens of this state be fully aware of an able to observe the performance of public officials and attend and listen to the deliberations and decisions that go into the making of public policy."

Majority Leader Ronk noted, "With public attendance anticipated to be larger than normal at this month's session, "the access and safety of the Ulster County residents in the governmental process is priceless."

Mr. Freeman recommended, to ensure compliance with County Law (Article 4, Section 152, Item 4) to which "No action of such board changing the place of meeting where such board has regularly met to any other city, town or village in the county shall be valid unless approved by the affirmative vote of at least three-quarters of the total membership of such board", that the Legislature move its meeting to a location within the City of Kingston limits.

It was the desire of the Ulster County Legislative Leadership to move to the SUNY Ulster campus in Stone Ridge. Unfortunately, this move required, by New York County Law, eighteen members of this legislative body present to vote in the affirmative at a special meeting and due to Legislator's schedules, there was no guarantee that number of Legislators would be available to ensure this vote.

Chairman Bernardo concurred, "We need to make reasonable accommodations to ensure all those who wish to exercise their 1st Amendment right be heard."

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