

The Legislature of Rockland County



HARRIET D. CORNELL
Legislator – District 10
Chair, Environmental Committee

AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, October 13, 2016
5:30 PM

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR 6/28/16 MEETING

1. REF. #9137 - OPPOSING THE PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO DESIGNATE 2,400 ACRES OF THE HUDSON RIVER AS ANCHORAGE SITES FOR COMMERCIAL VESSELS ALONG THE HUDSON SHORELINE FROM YONKERS TO KINGSTON, NEW YORK
(HONS. HARRIET CORNELL, ALDEN WOLFE, JAY HOOD, JR., LEGISLATURE)
LG#2016-84
2. REF. #5337 - APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND ROCKLAND FARM ALLIANCE, INC. FOR GREENHOUSE PROJECT (ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE) (\$10,000)
(CLIFF L. WOOD., PRESIDENT, RCC) DL# 2016-03230

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DRAFT

Introduced by:

Hon. Harriet D. Cornell, Sponsor
Hon. Alden H. Wolfe, Sponsor
Hon. Jay Hood, Jr., Sponsor

Referral No.
, 2016

RESOLUTION NO. OF 2016
OPPOSING THE PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO
DESIGNATE 2,400 ACRES OF THE HUDSON RIVER AS ANCHORAGE SITES
FOR COMMERCIAL VESSELS ALONG THE HUDSON SHORELINE FROM
YONKERS TO KINGSTON, NEW YORK

WHEREAS, the Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey Tug and Barge Committee, the Hudson River Port Pilot's Association and the American Waterways Operators have requested that the United States Coast Guard [hereinafter "USCG"] consider establishing new anchorage grounds on the Hudson River in order to accommodate the trade increase of crude oil and ethanol; and

WHEREAS, the USCG is seeking public comments and information about the operational need for new anchorage grounds for commercial vessels along the Hudson shoreline from Yonkers to Kingston, New York and what form possible regulations should take; and

WHEREAS, the new anchorage proposal creates navigational safety concerns because anchoring additional barges in and next to an already narrowly defined River channel will increase the potential for accidents; and

WHEREAS, the anchoring of additional barges carrying crude oil could lead to a hazardous spill that would devastate the ecological health of the River and would place an unnecessary burden on local communities to serve as first responders in the event of a catastrophic spill or incident; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation [hereinafter "DEC"] in its Hudson River Estuary Habitat Restoration Plan (2013) intends to reverse the damage that was created by toxic pollutants in the 19th century which destroyed important plant, fish and wildlife habitats along the River; and

WHEREAS, the proposed anchorage sites will threaten the delicate ecological systems along the River, including the wildlife habitats of federally-listed endangered species, and ultimately hinder the DEC's efforts to clean toxic pollutants and restore the River's ecological health; and

WHEREAS, the new anchorage proposal threatens the ecological well-being of Haverstraw Bay, described in Rockland Tomorrow: Rockland County Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2011, as "one of Rockland's most significant natural resources" and designated by the DEC as a significant coastal fish and wildlife habitat, and must be protected to ensure that it remains pollution-free; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action is adverse to the policy set forth in the Rockland County Comprehensive Plan and has the potential to discourage revitalization efforts and tourism, which among other things are dependent on the health of the Hudson River, protection and enhancement of its natural beauty and picturesque views along the riverfront shoreline; and

WHEREAS, the proposed anchorage sites along the River would serve to thwart the efforts and progress made by several riverfront communities to beautify their local shoreline and reverse the damage created by Superstorm Sandy; and

WHEREAS, the proposed anchorage grounds, located adjacent to vibrant riverfront communities, will adversely affect residents' quality of life because of a likely increase in noise and light pollution; and

WHEREAS, Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, the City of Yonkers and the Villages of Dobbs Ferry, Ossining, Tarrytown, South Nyack and the Town of Greenburgh and others have expressed their concerns and strong opposition to establishing new anchorage grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Rockland County Legislature wishes to express its opposition to increase the number of anchorage grounds along the Hudson River because such a proposal will raise serious navigational safety concerns, adversely affect the ecology of the Hudson River and negatively impact the quality of life and the security of the waterfront communities along the proposed route; and

WHEREAS, the _____ Committee has met, considered and by a _____ vote, approved this resolution; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Rockland County hereby opposes the proposal by the United States Coast Guard to designate 2,400 acres of the Hudson River as anchorage sites for commercial vessels along the Hudson shoreline from Yonkers to Kingston, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Rockland County calls upon the United States Coast Guard to increase the availability of public comment through local public forums so that affected communities can voice their concerns about this proposal and incorporate such concerns into the rulemaking process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Legislature be and is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this resolution to Craig Lapiejko, United States Coast Guard First District; Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; Hon. David Carlucci, Hon. William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Senators, Hon. Kenneth P. Zebrowski, Jr., Hon. Ellen C. Jaffee, Hon. James G. Skoufis, and Hon. Karl Brabanec, Members of the New York State Assembly; the President Pro Tem of the New York State Senate; the Speaker of the New York State Assembly; the Majority and Minority Leaders of the New York State Senate and Assembly; and to such other persons as the Clerk, in his discretion, may deem proper in order to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.

LG-2016-84

ASE

9/13/16

9/19/16

