

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Legislature of Rockland County will meet in its Chambers in the Allison-Parris Office Building, New City, New York on Thursday, January 3, 2013 at 7:00 P.M., for the purpose of organizing said Legislature and selecting a Chairperson and such other items as may be required by law, contract or financial necessity.

Very truly yours,

LAURENCE O. TOOLE
Clerk to the Legislature

Dated at New City, New York
this 27th day of December 2012

The Legislature of Rockland County convened in regular session pursuant to adjournment of the December 27, 2012 special meeting.

Laurence O. Toole, Clerk to the Legislature

Good Evening, my name is Larry Toole, I am the Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature. It is my honor to chair this meeting until the selection of the Chairperson for 2013.

At this time I will call upon Deputy Clerk Mary Widmer to call the roll.

A Roll Call being taken, the following Legislators were present and answered to their names:

- Christopher J. Carey
- Harriet D. Cornell
- Toney L. Earl
- Michael M. Grant
- Jay Hood, Jr.
- Joseph L. Meyers
- John A. Murphy
- Aney Paul
- Ilan S. Schoenberger
- Philip Soskin
- Frank P. Sparaco
- Aron B. Wieder

Late: Legislator Edwin J. Day (7:30 p.m.) and Douglas J. Jobson (7:59 p.m.)

Absent: Legislators Nancy Low-Hogan, Patrick J. Moroney and Alden H. Wolfe

Dr. Cliff Wood, President Rockland Community College and President of the New York Community College Association of Presidents, led in the salute to the flag.

Francis Pratt, President of the NAACP, delivered the invocation.

Alison Mase, Julliard School Student, played a solo Violin Sonata by Bach.

Nomination of Harriet D. Cornell for Chairwoman by Legislator Michael M. Grant, District 2.

Good evening and Happy New Year! I'd like to welcome you all to the Rockland County Legislature and to thank you for joining us here tonight.

The Legislature's annual reorganization meeting always has an atmosphere of exhilaration and enthusiasm, an air of renewal and of hope for things to come. This year, obviously, is no exception. And each year our first order of business is to select a leader for this vital governing body, an individual who will set an agenda for the coming year and marshal the resources needed to accomplish that agenda. Someone who can foster a sense of cooperation, while creating the requisite consensus that will ensure its success.

Recognizing the dedication, diplomacy and experience this assignment requires, it should come as no surprise that Harriet Cornell has once again been chosen to Chair the Rockland County Legislature.

In a career spanning 29 years, Harriet Cornell has demonstrated a clear and consistent conviction that government can and must play a role in protecting public health, ensuring public safety, constructing vital infrastructure and providing a safety net for our most vulnerable. She believes in a rich, culturally diverse and vibrant Rockland and in government's role in insuring its economic vitality. At the same time she has recognized the critical need to balance this responsibility with the community's ability to pay for it.

In 2012, Harriet remained committed to these principals as she traversed the County, region and State advocating on behalf of Rockland.

In February, Harriet appeared before Governor Cuomo's Mandate Relief Council in New Paltz to testify on the financial burden to County governments that result from state mandated programs such as, Medicaid, pensions, Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education programs and the need to find a better way balance these program costs going forward.

In public hearings and government meetings here and in Westchester, she voiced Rockland's concerns with the new Tappan Zee Bridge project, focusing on financing, including potential tolls; mass transit planning, environmental and visual impacts of the bridge design. In all of these areas, she called for transparency and public involvement.

Harriet lobbied in Albany to provide Rockland with the means and tools to manage its deficit problem. She traveled to New York City to meet with the Bond ratings agencies to demonstrate Rockland's commitment to plotting a course for a more secure financial future and protect our investment rating.

Along the way she was recognized by the Rockland Independent Living Center (RILC) as "a person in a leadership capacity who exemplifies the public service of the late New York State Senator Eugene Levy and his commitment to persons with disabilities. In a letter advising Harriet of her award, George Hoehmann, Executive Director of the RILC stated, "During your long and distinguished career in government, the needs of the poor, seniors, children and the disabled have been in the forefront of your thoughts and legislative activities. I am personally grateful to you for the willingness with which you have endeavored to support of RILC .

Clearly, Harriet is a compassionate policymaker and a thoughtful and innovative lawmaker. She is caring and committed to our community. She has a special connection with the people of Rockland County. She listens and then acts with clarity and with conviction.

Last year, the challenges facing this Legislature were many, varied and complex. This year will be equally challenging

Now more than ever it is imperative that this Legislative body have a leader of the stature and strength of Harriet Cornell; a leader showing the way for others. A leader who is respected by both sides of the isle, in the Hudson Valley, in Albany and in Washington, as well as the towns and villages in the Rockland County she treasures.

In her remarks to the Legislature last year, Harriet said, "It is not the challenges we encounter, but our joint commitment to respond to those challenges that will determine how we move forward. When we work together on behalf of the men, women and children of this diverse County, we can fulfill their hopes and dreams."

It takes passion, commitment and an immense amount of energy to be an effective leader of this body. Chairwoman Cornell is an effective and enduring leader.

It is my honor and my pleasure to once again nominate Harriet D. Cornell to serve as Chairperson of the Rockland County Legislature.

Thank you.

Second the Nomination of Harriet D. Cornell for Chairwoman by Legislator Toney L. Earl, District 8.

Good evening and Happy New Year. When asked to define what makes a great leader a former President once said, "The supreme quality for leadership is integrity. Without it, no real success is possible." In government and in life integrity is too often hard to come by, and in trying times even more so. In this chamber and in this County few can rise to that description like Harriet Cornell. Therefore, it is my great honor to second the nomination of Harriet Cornell to be the Chair of our Legislature for 2013.

For eight years Chair Cornell has led this body with grace unmatched and guidance unrivaled. As a Legislator for over 25 years she has given a voice to those who have not been heard and reached across all lines of class, race, age and party to make Rockland a County for all. As Chair, Harriet has looked to the future and seen as Robert Kenney once said, "Not only what is, but what can be." Fighting for a better Tappan Zee Bridge, a cleaner environment and better health care for our families and our children.

Harriet Cornell has not just been the Chair of the Legislature she is the Rockland County Legislature. Our walls echo with her words of compassion. Our agencies fulfill their missions with her vision of public service and our greatest laws are the ones that bear her name. Through the brighter days and the burdensome times her integrity has remained strong. Our President believes that such integrity could yield great success, and so do I. With Harriet Cornell as our Chair there is no success that cannot be achieved.

Thank you, and God Bless you all.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01 OF 2013
SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Mr. Grant offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Earl and unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 151 of the County Law, Hon. Harriet D. Cornell Legislative District 10, be and is hereby selected Chairperson of the Rockland County Legislature.

Honorable Harriet D. Cornell, with her family at her side, took her oath of office, which was administered by her son Keith Cornell, Past President of the Rockland County Bar Association.

**Harriet Cornell, Chairwoman
Rockland County Legislature**

Annual Address to the Legislature

To my Legislative colleagues, thank you for your continued trust in my leadership. We have literally had to face storms of historic proportions, some natural and some man-made over the past several years, and I am honored to stand with each of you in service to the people of Rockland County.

Thank you very much, Michael, for your kind and wonderful words of nomination; and Toney as well for your second, I appreciate it so much. Thank you President Wood for being here. I take such pride in Rockland Community College and the wonderful education it provides our community. Frances Pratt, thank you for your leadership and friendship, your wit and your amazing hats!

To the entire Legislative staff, many of whom are here and some of whom are not tonight, I thank you for your long hours and your behind-the-scenes service and support to Legislators and the public.

Scott Vanderhoef sent congratulations. He is not here tonight, but I look forward to working with him this year. He has announced it is his last year. I will certainly be working with him to ensure strong, sustainable services, and a better understanding by the public of the unique work of County government.

If I were to introduce all of our dignitaries it is everyone in the audience so I don't think I can do that, but I do want to recognize a few elected official who are here. Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee is here. State Senator Carlucci was here. I received a call from Congresswoman Lowey, she is in Washington, but she has two representatives here tonight, Pat Keegan, District Director and Elijah Reichlin- Melnick, Rockland representative. We have Susan Spear is here representing Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Thank you so much. We have two former Legislators, Connie Coker and Gerold Bierker, I am so happy they can be here. Emily Dominguez is here from the Village of Haverstraw. Our Sheriff Lou Falco is here. Daniel Friedman, Councilman in the Town of Ramapo is here. We have people here from Good Samaritan and Nyack Hospital, union leaders, Rockland Community College trustees, school Superintendents and Police Chiefs. Police Chief Sullivan, thank you so much for being here. I am sure somebody will let me know who I have forgotten.

I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for a speedy and complete recovery. How honored I was in 2005 when she flew from Washington to be here the first time I was sworn in as Chairwoman. I consider her an extraordinary public servant and I am privileged to call her my friend. I know you join with me in wishing for her complete recovery.

And finally, to my beloved family. Keith, Carrie, Robin, Skyler, and my daughters and grandson who are not here Valerie, Kendall, Alison and Arthur: Ten years ago, in December of 2002, my husband Martin died. My family helped me persevere and continue this work that I love so I want to thank you, my dears for that.

We are shaped in large part by our families, by the people who raised us, nurtured us and set us off on our journey through life. But we are also shaped by those who made it their life's mission to influence and enhance the lives of children - teachers. Who among us does not remember the special teachers who sparked our imaginations through books, taught us how to diagram a sentence or gave us the confidence necessary to succeed at whatever task was at hand?

For most of us, the tragedy in Newtown last month reminded us how much we owe the teachers we have known and those we know now, such as the teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary School who heard gunshots and quickly put her second-graders, and two third-graders she pulled in from the hallway, behind a walled-in area of the classroom. She told them all to be very, very quiet; and read stories and sang to them. One child said, "Teacher, why are your legs shaking?" This teacher saved those children despite her terror and was able to tell the tale. Others died while trying to protect the students in their care.

Here in Rockland three and a half years ago, Dr. Ken Mitchell, a teacher and Superintendent of South Orangetown Schools, thought only of the safety of his staff and students when he tackled a gun-wielding man in the school. Ken, a leader on school education and financing issues, has joined with 77 other school superintendents in the Hudson region to call for tougher gun-control laws and increased government funding for mental health services. I have been in touch with him and with Dr. Mary Jean Marsico, District Superintendent of Rockland BOCES, offering my support for those goals and for the re-establishment where needed of School Resource Officers, police officers who worked so well in building relationships with students and preventing problems before they ignite in the schools and also in the towns. I have also been in touch with Congresswoman Lowey to see if grants may be available to fund these positions.

Nothing I have done has meant more to me than my work with schools on behalf of children and families. County, town, and village officials must work closely with schools to ensure their safety. We never know what crises and challenges lie ahead. We never know what we are capable of until we are faced with these tests of character. It takes a special kind of character to decide to devote your life to the education, health, and safety of children. It takes that same altruistic trait to choose to become a first responder, a person who cares for the infirm, a probation officer who helps people turn their lives around, or someone who provides compassionate assistance to the indigent. Such character traits abound in County personnel. Every agency offers courteous, meaningful assistance to residents and all of the services represent cost avoidance: the much greater costs to society and taxpayers in dollars and human capital when these obligations are not fulfilled.

I've heard people say, "I don't use government services." Not true! Government workers protect your children from online predators and bring evildoers to justice. They inspect food establishments so you don't get food-borne illnesses. They work with older people to teach ways to prevent falls that can lead to a helpless life rather than an active, independent one. They work to ensure that veterans get the benefits to which they are entitled. They ensure that the buses run on time. They issue licenses and keep records. They ensure fair elections, give civil service tests, maintain county property and beautiful parks.

Our nurses, health educators, technicians go into the community, the schools, the senior centers, the wetlands to prevent mosquito-borne illness, sexually-transmitted diseases, polluted water, the deadly consequences of tobacco, and epidemics of childhood obesity leading to diabetes, the 7th leading cause of death in the nation.

The District Attorney's Special Victims Unit supports victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, sex crimes, and crimes against children as they move through the complicated legal system.

We have a Public Defender and a County Attorney.

The Sheriff's Department runs the jail and he coordinates the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and the Intelligence Unit, enabling effective prosecutions of criminals.

The Office of the Aging offers Respite services for family caregivers and financial counseling. And residents of our Nursing Home come here to these chambers in wheelchairs to bear witness to the excellent care and devoted staff.

The Department of Mental Health offers early identification of childhood emotional disturbances and creates care plans that involve the engagement of the entire family

The impact of Superstorm Sandy on the County was devastating, but the preparations made by Fire and Emergency Services and their swift coordinated actions with police and fire services and the Highway Departments spared our residents even greater hardship and loss. Gordon, thank you.

During these recessionary years, many families have needed help for the first time in their lives. The Department of Social Services has provided sensitive and swift assistance. Thank you Sue Sherwood.

The work of County Planners underlies everything we do, based on demographics, mapping techniques and appropriate land use.

And our Youth Bureau focuses on teen-age development and runs AmeriCorps programs and Project Turning Point, an emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth, many of whom have suffered abuse.

The Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies program saves the County hundreds of thousands of dollars in the costs of care for babies who might otherwise have been born with significant medical issues. Dr. Joan Facelle has been the inspirational leader of a department, which is the pride of Rockland. We will miss Joan, who is exchanging the care of all our residents to the care of one almost newborn grandchild.

There is a reason, and I can't go through all of the departments, why these and so many others are called "servants," public servants. To our County workers, all of you, you work long hours with little recognition, you keep our residents safe in time of greatest need and support them year-round. In my estimation, that makes you heroes. And I thank you. I think they deserve applause.

Now in 2013, we in the Legislature will continue to tackle many challenges. The economic recovery has been painfully slow, and we have already taken a series of major steps to control costs and enhance revenues.

I am determined to eliminate the deficit, which is an albatross around our necks. We have a well thought-out, well-developed plan thanks to my colleagues led by Legislators Schoenberger and Grant, and the pro bono deficit reduction team I put together. It was passed by the Assembly in 2012, but the State Senate did not act to help us. We will again seek home rule authority to bond and eliminate the deficit. Assemblywoman Jaffee thank you for reaching out and you have already told me you will sponsor it in the Assembly.

But even with financial difficulties, County government must never waiver with regard to our legal and moral responsibilities to care for the most vulnerable: children, the growing elderly population, the physically and mentally challenged, and the poor among us. We have a wonderful partnership with private, not-for-profit agencies that bolster the important work the County does. They are not under the same restrictions as government and deliver specialized services at lower cost. The economic impact of these agencies that deliver health and social services, enrich the arts and cultural landscape, and protect the environment was more than \$1 billion in one year alone. They too are under financial stress and we should help to strengthen them.

The work of government is not to produce goods and turn a profit; it is to produce services for the public in a cost-effective way. It is labor intensive. Virtually every elected official and every economic pundit in this country has talked about job creation as the key to economic growth. So I ask you, *why are public sector jobs not as vital for the economy as private sector ones?*

When a public sector worker is laid off, the impact on personal lives as well as on the economy is the same as if that person worked in the auto industry or in a small business. Without a job, you can't pay your bills or mortgage payments. Without money, you can't buy the goods and services that support the economy. Ronald Reagan, not someone I often quote, said, "Recession is when a neighbor loses his job. Depression is when you lose yours."

I am proud that a majority of the Legislature refused to lay off 70 more people as the County Executive's budget required. We had already taken the workforce to the bone through attrition, layoffs and early retirements. We have 530 fewer positions than 30 years ago. We honored the union contracts that promised no layoffs for budgetary reasons and overrode the Executive's veto to continue necessary services with experienced personnel, to avoid costly lawsuits and the likelihood of greater costs.

When the State would not support our first proposal for a 3/8% sales tax increase to provide revenue for 2012 and thereafter go into a bank lockbox to pay off the deficit, the County was forced to take painful measures including chargebacks to the towns, which led to strained relationships. I am determined to work collaboratively with towns and villages to present a united front as we seek State authority for a deficit bond this year.

While it is the Executive Branch that has the constitutional authority to manage the workings of government departments, I am directing each Legislative Committee Chair to plan a review of every facet of operations in every department and to make recommendations by mid-year. This review will explore costs and revenue streams and whether there can be further consolidations of services across departments or with the municipalities. I honestly and earnestly ask the County Executive's office to join with us and share the studies they may have done, and I think have done, so that we can benefit from any analyses already developed.

One area of concern is to ensure the speed and sufficiency of the County's billing operations. This may be a perfect task to pursue for the Joint Legislative-Executive Task Force on Fiscal Improvement, Co-chaired by Legislator Alden Wolfe and Deputy County Executive Sean Mathews. I thank Sean, Commissioner DeGroat and Budget Director Grogan for the assistance they and staff give the Legislature regularly.

We will immediately focus on the future of the Summit Park Hospital and Nursing Home. The County Executive has recommended creation of a Local Development Corporation (LDC) for the sole purpose of a sale of the nursing home. I continue to have serious reservations and concerns in regard to this complex proposal.

We still don't know exactly what is being proposed to be sold and whether a sale would simply transfer millions of dollars in County costs to other departments. And we don't know whether a privately run nursing home would leave out the sickest and those unable to pay. We must not lose sight of the very valuable LTAC beds we have at Summit Park, which no other facility in the State outside of New York City has and which could be the key to a successful operation for us. We also possess a very valuable Certificate of Need, which would enable us to construct a smaller, more modern facility, 90% of which would be state funded. I plan to commence meetings of the whole Legislature with consultants who just recently performed a high-level operational assessment and pin down the facts so we can make a reasoned decision as quickly as possible. Whatever our decision, it must be expedited. County government and the community have been in limbo since 2010 when the County Executive first proposed a Public Benefit Corporation in 2010.

Another priority for 2013 is to draft a water conservation plan, a key component of the Rockland County Comprehensive Plan. This past year, Health Department Hydrologist Dr. Dan Miller and our Environmental Committee commissioned Dr. Stuart Braman and students of the Columbia University Sustainable Development Workshop to identify viable, long-term solutions to the County's water shortage problems. The students explored the issues and searched across the country for similar communities that have found practical remedies. Based on their study, the students recommend that new ordinances, while likely appropriate, must be tied to education and incentive programs that will lead to voluntary citizen engagement. As proven by our recycling experience in Rockland County, some of our best water conservation ambassadors will be children. We hope that many school educators will choose to include lessons about the impact of droughts and commitment to responsible water usage.

Our Environmental Committee will explore creation of potentially odd-even day watering ordinances, even in times of abundance. This would conserve water in the long run and leave us well prepared when short-term crises occur. Water conservation is in the vital interest of every resident and business in the County. It should be given a serious chance along with other recommendations, which have been put forward. We have a lot of possibilities before moving ahead to build a controversial and costly infrastructure on the Hudson River. We are very grateful to the Columbia students for their insightful work, and we will be considering their ideas in the days ahead.

As State Comptroller DiNapoli said this week, local governments all over the state are struggling with growing costs and declining or static revenues. This is not a surprise since the New York State Association of Counties has warned for years about the burdens of unfunded mandates and rising pension costs. Governor Cuomo's initiative in capping the growth in the local share of Medicaid is an excellent beginning to what I hope will be an accelerated process leading to the State's assumption of these costs. The Governor's Medicaid Redesign Team supported removing counties from financing this program, and what a difference that would make in our ability to fund our other responsibilities. You probably don't know that New York is one of only two States in the nation where counties are required to pay Medicaid costs. These mandated programs for healthcare and early intervention for children are vital, and I am proud of the role counties play in delivery of services, but the burden on local budgets is devastating. I ask that 2013 be the year when the State makes meaningful changes to address the burden of mandated costs and sluggish reimbursements.

Governor Cuomo has made a new Tappan Zee Bridge a top priority. I am extremely pleased to be serving on his new Regional Mass Transit Task Force. This will be an opportunity to explore ways in which Rockland County can address its long-term dependence on the automobile and the inadequacy of our public transit choices.

I want to end my remarks by talking about our future: children. If children are our future, and of course they are, then we must ensure they grow to be productive members of society and capable of becoming the educated workforce of a global economy. This means we must understand that 75% of brain growth and 85% of intellect, personality and social skills develop before age 5. And this will not happen if we do not have children who are well nourished, with quality early childhood care, and parents who are guided in ways to be supportive.

In 1995, I played a role in founding a family-school-community-government collaborative called Rockland 21C. Its mission continues to be the optimal development of every child through a comprehensive support system, the recognition that every adult is responsible for every child and the dedication of community resources to our common aspirations. Family Resource Centers now exist in 40 schools throughout Rockland, and literacy-based home visiting programs for two and three-year olds have enabled low-income families to send their children to school ready to learn, at the same level as their more affluent peers. 21C is considered a national suburban model of community schools and I am extremely happy that recommendations that were issued yesterday by the Governor's Education Reform Commission have been included in their Report. I had the opportunity to speak to that Commission about early childhood and community schools. Thanks to research and proven programs we know how to ensure healthy development, but children can't wait while government leaders argue over funding priorities. Children keep growing! We know the importance of quality early childhood programs, of vocabulary development, of after-school programs, of education in the arts and music. These are not frills—they are facts. We know that after-school programs help increase grades, improve behavior and prevent youth violence. In fact our District Attorney and police in Rockland County are part of a statewide effort, *Fight Crime, Invest in Kids*.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said "Research increasingly has shown the benefits of early childhood education . . . to provide the lifelong acquisition of skills for both individuals and the economy as a whole. The payoffs ...are especially high." Just think of what he said. The ability to compete in the global economy depends upon the earliest education and support to infants and children. This is surely an investment in economic development. We can pay now to produce an educated citizenry or we pay later for jails and anti-social behavior. The work that we do to support children is real. Issues debated in this chamber have a direct impact on their lives. Each and every day, I wonder if we have done enough. Do our children have the support they need to learn and to grow? Are they able to see the blackboards and hear their teachers? Will they get enough exercise and eat healthy foods? Will the schools and local agencies have the resources to provide enrichment and after-school activities?

I'm the daughter of an accountant, and while I always seek annual balanced budgets, my bottom line is longer term. It is about developing human capital, and giving people the tools to discover the cure for cancer and to invent the next great thing. It does take a village, and County government is a big part of that village.

As Nelson Mandela said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

I thank you for your patience and listening to me and for being here. I wish you all a very happy and successful New Year. Thank you.

Nomination of Alden H. Wolfe for Vice Chair by Legislator Ilan S. Schoenberger, District 4.

Alden brings his love of government and his love of community to Rockland County. Alden has an extensive education with a Bachelor's Degree in Management and Finance from Binghamton University, a Masters Degree in Public Administration and a Juris Doctorate Degree from Syracuse University School of Law. Alden is a practicing Attorney.

Alden also has a distinguished record of service and achievement in community. In 2002 he was recognized by the Rockland Economic Development Corporation as a business and community leader in Rockland County. Alden is also a graduate of Leadership Rockland and a member of the Rockland Business Association. In 2007 he was nominated by the EPA for the Environmental Quality Achievement Award in recognition of his advocacy on environmental issues. He has served for over a decade as a panel member and Chair of the New York State Surrogates Decision-making Committee to ensure that disable persons receive proper and adequate health care.

Alden has authored many laws for Rockland County in his service as a Legislator. Alden authored the law that prohibits the sale of drop-sided cribs, the BPA Free Children's and Babies Law prohibiting the sale in Rockland County of children's beverages and teething products containing Bisphenol A. Alden also supported the Truth in Budgeting Law, which was a resolution to ensure that salaries for elected officials and those appointed for a fixed term conform to the Budget adopted for that fiscal year. In 2010, the County Legislature passed Alden's Local Law to restrict the use of trans fats in local establishments. Alden also sponsored the law that allows food establishments that use generate grease and oil to opt to use biological methods to pretreat and breakdown the captured waste. In 2012 Alden introduced a Local Law amending the Rockland County Multiple Dwelling Smoking Act.

Alden has strong local roots in Rockland County and the Town of Ramapo. I know Alden's father for many years and I knew his late mother, who were she alive today, would be very proud of Alden and all that he has accomplished.

Alden has worked hard and devoted his time and energy on behalf of the Rockland Community College Foundation and the College itself.

Unfortunately Alden could not be here tonight, because of a prior family commitment.

I am honored to nominate Alden Wolfe as Vice Chair of the Rockland County Legislature for 2012.

Second the Nomination of Alden H. Wolfe for Vice Chair by Legislator Michael M. Grant, District 2.

You may have noticed that Alden isn't here and you may also remember that last year his daughter Morgan sat here quiet and patiently while her father was nominated, confirmed and then gave his remarks before the Legislature. This year Alden sits in an audience watching Morgan, quietly and patiently.

We are going to nominate him in his absence. It is my honor to second the nomination of my friend and colleague Legislator Alden Wolfe as Vice Chairman of the Rockland County Legislature in 2013.

During his tenure in these chambers Alden has consistently demonstrated his Legislative and political skill in his role as Vice Chair, Deputy Majority Leader, Chairman of the Environmental Committee, Rules Committee, Vice Chair of Planning and Public Works Committee and now as Chairman of the Task Force on Fiscal Improvement. Ilan listed a whole litany of laws he as sponsored and co-sponsored during his tenure here. He was the author of the Task Force on Fiscal Improvement and we hope for great things from that this year.

Most importantly Alden Wolfe is a descent human being with a keen understanding of the needs of Rocklander's. He is a man with a sharp intellect, a generous heart and a calm and even demeanor. Alden has proven to be an effective and vocal engaged member of this Legislature on the important committees that he serves on.

I am proud to have the opportunity to work with Alden and I am equally proud to second his nomination for another term as Vice Chairman.

**RESOLUTION NO. 02 OF 2013
SELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Mr. Schoenberger offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Grant and unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that Hon. Alden H. Wolfe, Legislative District 6, be and he is hereby selected Vice Chairperson of the Rockland County Legislature.

Statement by the Honorable Harriet D. Cornell, Chairwoman

As we have heard he was very sorry not to be here. He asked me to tell you all that he is grateful for his colleagues continued support and looks forward to working collaboratively toward a better Rockland County.

I would like to just mention that Legislator Low-Hogan is not here tonight, because she was felled with an illness that seems to be going around.

Nomination of Laurence O. Toole, Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature, by Legislator Ilan S. Schoenberger, District 4.

The work of the Rockland County Legislature is as complex as the issues it addresses. Crafting Legislation requires research, legal and governmental expertise, the ability to draft referrals and resolutions, and clerks to move it through committees and this body. Above it all, is one person with the keen insight and ability to manage and assist in all matters of our Legislative endeavors.

Tonight, we salute the staff who carry out their responsibilities, and the man who has the ultimate responsibility of leading them. For over ten years, Larry Toole has been an exemplary Clerk of our Legislature, and has been instrumental in meeting the needs of all of our Legislators, from every party, and every part of Rockland County. Every Legislator has come to rely on Larry for everything, from his expert knowledge of County government and the Legislative process to ensuring that all work gets done in a timely manner and in accordance with the law.

When members of the public need information or assistance, Larry is there. When a Legislative staffer needs assistance with a project, Larry is there. And when a Legislator needs anything at all, Larry is there. It is therefore my honor to nominate Laurence O. Toole, a humble and hardworking man who cares for the public and the Legislature he is so proud to serve, to be our Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2013.

Second the Nomination of Laurence O. Toole, Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature, by Legislator Harriet D. Cornell, Chairwoman

During my years as Chairwoman I have been particularly grateful for the dedicated service of the Clerk to the Legislature, Larry Toole. He is one of the hardest working public servants in Rockland County, but who at the same time makes the Legislature a positive and meaningful place to work. I know that every staff member appreciates his understated yet very sincere management style. I like to say that Larry is efficient, but never officious. Beyond his thoughtful leadership of the Legislative staff Larry is always courteous and respectful to the public. He is an outstanding fiscal manager ensuring that he allocates his budget prudently.

I am sure that each member of the Legislature shares my admiration of Larry and joins me in gratitude for his service. I am happy to second the nomination of Larry Toole.

Second the Nomination of Laurence O. Toole, Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature, by Legislator John A. Murphy, District 16.

I am beginning my 42nd year in this capacity so I think I am a good judge of what makes a great County government employee. I will simply say that Mr. Toole is a synonym for decency. If all government employees throughout the world were like Larry this would be a far better world. It is a joy working with him. Thank you.

**RESOLUTION NO. 03 OF 2013
APPOINTMENT OF CLERK TO THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Mr. Schoenberger offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Murphy and Chairwoman Cornell and unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that Laurence O. Toole Town of Ramapo, be and he is hereby appointed Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature at a salary to be established by the Legislature.

Laurence O. Toole, took his oath of office, which was administered by Judge Rhoda Schoenberger, Town of Ramapo.

Statement by Laurence O. Toole, Clerk to the Legislature

Congratulations Chairwoman Cornell, Vice Chair Wolfe and soon to be 2013 Majority Leader Jay Hood and Minority Leader Chris Carey on being selected by your colleagues to lead the body this year. Thank you to Legislator Ilan Schoenberger, Chairwoman Harriet Cornell and Legislator John Murphy, thank you-that meant a lot to me, for your kind words in nominating me this evening. Your leadership, support and guidance, with our staff and County employees, is sincerely appreciated.

To the members of the Legislature, thank you for your support this year and those years prior dating back to 2001. It is and has been an honor to work with all of you in serving our County residents.

To Judge Rhoda Schoenberger, thank you for administering the Oath of Office for me this evening and all prior meetings that I have been selected to be the Clerk. All the best to you and your family in 2013.

Thank you to all on the Legislature. I wish you all the very best in tackling the issues that lie ahead in 2013.

**RESOLUTION NO. 04 OF 2013
AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO THE LEGISLATURE TO
APPOINT A DEPUTY CLERK**

Mr. Grant offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Hood, Jr. and unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Legislature be and he is hereby authorized to appoint a Deputy Clerk to the Legislature at a salary to be established by the Legislature.

Statement by Legislator Jay Hood, Jr.

If it was my choice I hope that he would pick Mary Widmer, who has been doing a fantastic job guiding this body with Larry and all our staff. I would like to thank Mary tonight and all our workers for another great year past and hopefully another great year ahead.

Statement by Laurence O. Toole, Clerk

It is my honor to again appoint Mary Widmer from Garnerville as Deputy Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature for the upcoming 2013 Legislative session. Mary's dedicated service is well known to most of us in this room and to those in need of assistance that contact our good offices. Her work, along with the rest of our support staff is of the highest professional caliber, which we are all very proud of. I am very pleased that Mary will service again in this role for the coming year. Mary, please come up to sign the book. Congratulations.

**RESOLUTION NO 05 OF 2013
PROVIDING FOR BLANKET BOND FOR ALL
PUBLIC OFFICERS OF ROCKLAND COUNTY
AND FIXING AMOUNT OF COVERAGE**

Mr. Soskin offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Carey and unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 2.01 (h) and 3.02 (d) of the Charter, all officers, clerks or employees of the County of Rockland shall be included in a blanket bond issued in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 813 of the Laws of 1972; and

WHEREAS, the coverage for said blanket bond have previously been reviewed by the County Executive's Office and the Legislature in 2008; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist within the 2013 Budget to fund the premium for said blanket bond, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Rockland County hereby approves a blanket bond to provide faithful performance blanket bond coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000, except that bonds for the following positions are hereby fixed at \$1,750,000:

- A. Commissioner of Finance and Budget Director
- B. Deputy Budget Director
- C. Accountant III
- D. Operations Analyst (HSP)
- E. Commissioner of Social Services
- F. County Clerk
- G. Director of Purchasing
- H. Commissioner of Hospitals
- I. Commissioner of Mental Health
- J. Superintendent of Highways
- K. Rockland Community College President
- L. Rockland Community College Vice President
- M. Rockland Community College Associate Vice President

and; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Legislature is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Rockland County Director of Insurance and Risk Management, and; be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby requested to endorse his approval on said blanket bond and to sign any and all documents in furtherance of this resolution.

Introduced by:
Hon. Harriet D. Cornell, Sponsor

Referral No. 9156

**RESOLUTION NO. 6 OF 2013
DESIGNATION OF THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS AND SUPPLEMENTAL
PUBLICATIONS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND**

Mr. Jobson offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Meyers and unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Rockland County having heretofore appointed the *Rockland Journal News* and the *Rockland County Times* as the official newspapers of the County of Rockland; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Rockland County has previously designated several newspapers as supplemental publications; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Rockland County having determined that the due process rights of the people of Rockland County will be enhanced by the occasional supplemental publication of legal advertising of the County of Rockland in supplemental publications, as aforesaid; and

WHEREAS, the publication of Rockland County legal notices in said supplemental publication shall be discretionary and for informational purposes only, said papers are not designated as an official publication of the county and need not be used in every instance of the County giving official notice; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the *Rockland Journal News* and *The Rockland County Times* are designated the official newspapers of the County of Rockland for the purpose of publishing all local laws, notices and other matters required by law to be published and that the following:

The Monsey Advocate
The Monsey Bulletin
El Sol de New York
Our Town
Rockland Review
El Clarin Inc.

are appointed as a supplemental publications, for informational purposes of the County of Rockland for the purpose of discretionary publication of legal advertising for the County of Rockland and all its departments and any other advertising authorized by the Legislature.

Nomination of Jay Hood, Jr., Majority Leader, by Legislator Michael M. Grant, District 2.

Jay and I have a lot in common. We both worked in village government. We have both worked as Councilmen in the Town of Haverstraw. We were each elected to the Office of the Legislature here and now we will share having the distinct honor of being Majority Leader for this Legislature.

I know his wife Julie, his sons Avery and Quinlan and his mother Cathy are very happy to see that Jay is taking on some additional work. I know his father, who is no longer with us, would be very proud of him.

Jay has distinguished himself as the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. Jay is a practicing attorney. He is very much involved in village prosecutions of a variety of different violations within the village. He has really come into his own in the Public Safety Committee for a whole variety of reasons, but among them is that he works bipartisanly. He has been able to cross the isle to work with a number of Legislators, including my colleague Ed Day and they have done a terrific job together.

I know Jay will lead the Majority and be an active and vocal member of the leadership team as we enter 2013. I nominate Jay Hood, Jr. to be the Majority Leader of the Rockland County Legislature.

Second the Nomination of Jay Hood, Jr., Majority Leader, by Legislator Ilan S. Schoenberger District 4.

The Jay Hood you just saw is the real Jay Hood, unassuming and non-pretentious. He didn't even think of asking any one for a nomination or a second and that is what makes him the great guy that he is. I have had the pleasure of knowing Jay for quite a few years, even when he was back in the Haverstraw village and town government. He is just a very decent fine man. He cares a great deal for his family. I remember his late father, we had a number of business deals together as attorney's on opposite sides sometimes, and he carries his father's tradition of honesty and decency towards all people. He is going to be a great Majority Leader. I am very honored to be asked, about thirty seconds ago, to second his nomination.

Introduced by:
Hon. Harriet D. Cornell, Sponsor

**RESOLUTION NO. 7 OF 2013
ELECTION OF MAJORITY LEADER
(TO BE VOTED ON BY MAJORITY MEMBERS ONLY)**

Mr. Grant offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Schoenberger and unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that Hon. Jay Hood, Jr., Legislative District 3, be and he is hereby elected Majority Leader of the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2013.

Statement by Honorable Harriet D. Cornell, Chairwoman

We wish you luck. I particularly, however, want to thank our immediate past Majority Leader Michael Grant for being a great Majority Leader. We have other things in store for him this coming year.

Statement by Legislator Jay Hood, Jr., Majority Leader

I want to thank Ilan and Mike for your kind words, and bringing up my father, I always appreciate that. It reminds me of what somebody told me at his wake, "You know, you are just not as nice as your dad." It was very telling and very true; I will never be as nice as him.

I want to thank Legislature Grant for giving me this opportunity, because you have all of our respect and you probably could have stayed Majority Leader for as long as you liked. You decided to give me a chance and I appreciate that so much.

I want to thank Harriet Cornell and congratulate you on your ninth year as Chairperson. I am so thankful for your representation of our body out in public on the regional issue and things that quite frankly I don't have time for and I am so glad that you are there to represent us in such a classy and dignified way. I appreciate that every year.

I want to thank my fellow Democrats for their confidence in me and for voting me in tonight. It has been a pleasure working with all of you over the last six years. And to my Republican friends, I know you all love me, my door is always open and I think you know that. We do disagree on some things, but you know that I am always available. From time to time we have really come together like Legislator Grant said. Legislator Day and I worked together to get repairs done at the gun range. Even Legislator Sparaco and I are coming together this week, which is shocking, on some gun regulations. That just shows that we can work together.

I ask that the County Executive work with us earlier on the budget. Let's look at it midway through the year and see where we are at and work together earlier instead of the end of October and we only have several weeks to work on it. I think it would be very important and much better for everybody if we got it earlier. I know Legislator Carey is interested in that also and as the future Minority Leader I look forward to working with him on those issues. I find Chris to be very reasonable and a very nice guy.

Finally, I would like to say as I look out in the audience I see different department heads and our workers from the Legislature – I thank you. These are the people that make County government run. We get a lot of flack out there about the County government, costs and taxes, but I don't think that some of the residents know what we, and you all do to make this County a better place to live. I want to end that with a big thank you to all of you. You do in fact make everybody's life better in this County.

Lastly, I will nominate my Deputy Majority Leader. I would like to have Legislator Earl continue as the Deputy Majority Leader. When you meet Toney you initially feel a friendship, a kinship, a dignity and integrity. These are words that come to mind right off the cuff. We agree on a lot of the issues. We represent some of the lower income areas of the County. It is my pleasure and honor to appoint Toney as Deputy Majority Leader.

Statement by Legislator Edwin J. Day

I was a bit behind my time this evening and wasn't able to cast a vote for the Chair. I just want to acknowledge your past service, Madam Chair, and wish you the best in 2013.

Nomination of Christopher J. Carey, Minority Leader, by Legislator Edwin J. Day, District 5.

Legislator Chris Carey came to these chambers possessing a wealth of private sector experience coupled with a blend of community and civic involvement. He is also imbued with what many will agree is all too often lacking in politics – clear thinking and common sense.

Yes, Chris has been an ally to me in support of issues I have brought forward, but more importantly, he has also been an ally to other Legislators, regardless of party or political persuasion. As part of a collaborative body, all of us are keenly aware that effectively representing the people hinges on that one trait. We also recognize that to be central to being a true leader.

Those who have seen and heard Chris over this past year understand just how quickly he has come into his own as a Legislator and representative. Through incisive questioning, a keen analysis of the issues, an unselfish approach to representation, and most importantly, a passion for the people of Rockland. He has shown himself worthy of a leadership position in this body. Tonight I take great pride in nominating Legislator Chris Carey for the position of Minority Leader for the 2013 session.

Second the Nomination of Christopher J. Carey, Minority Leader, by Legislator John A. Murphy, District 16.

Before I make my remarks, I would like to say something about our outgoing Minority Leader Frank Sparaco. Being in the Minority and the Minority Leader is a thankless and often futile responsibility that requires a strong sense of personal values and priorities that deserve to be heard. Frank Sparaco executed that responsibility with conviction and vigor. He served our common good that every voice should be heard without fear. As one of the few military veterans on this Legislature he has served this County well as he once served our country well. I think he deserves a round of applause for his efforts over the past two years.

Now as far as Chris is concerned, we all know that this is a time of very low esteem of all elected officials at every level in every party. I am so pleased in the light of this fact to the second the nomination of a very distinguished gentleman. He is a gentleman of character, integrity, intelligence, principal and vision, because these are the ingredients for a great lawmaker. Chris Carey, like his father who was a dear friend and fellow Republican elected official, is going to be one of the greats in our future. He has everything it takes to rise to the very top and I wish him God’s speed in the almost near impossibility in representing this Minority. Thank you.

Introduced by:
Hon. Christopher J. Carey, Sponsor

**RESOLUTION NO. 8 OF 2013
ELECTION OF MINORITY LEADER
(TO BE VOTED ON BY MINORITY MEMBERS ONLY)**

Mr. Day offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Murphy and unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that Hon. Christopher J. Carey, Legislative District 9, be and he is hereby elected Minority Leader of the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2013.

Statement by Legislator Christopher J. Carey, Minority Leader

As the newest member to the Republican team I am honored that the confidence that my peers have shown me by putting me forward as the Minority Leader. I will do everything in my power over the next year to show them that I am worthy of that trust.

I would like to thank Ed and John for their kind words. I do appreciate those very much. I would also like to thank Frank for his two years of hard work as the outgoing Minority Leader. We all know times are tough here in the County. It hasn't been a fun two years for him and I am sure I am facing some steep obstacles. I commit to do that with passion, but also to do that in a very professional manner.

I look forward to working with Jay Hood and the entire team. These issues are not about Democrats or Republicans; the issues this County faces are financial. It is going to take hard decisions and I pledge that I will thoroughly look at these issues and work closely with the folks up here. 2013 is going to be a very critical year so that we position ourselves in 2014 to start to see daylight. I thank you all for your support.

I am going to tap Frank Sparaco as Deputy Minority Leader to continue on and work along side me and help me on this journey.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9 OF 2013
ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Murphy offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Earl and unanimously adopted (8:29 p.m.)

RESOLVED, that the meeting of the Legislature is hereby adjourned to Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DARCY M. GREENBERG
Proceedings Clerk