



County Legislator Ed Day

(District #5 New City-Pomona)

Fall 2012

“Our County Budget Crisis”

I share much of the frustration many in our community feel as we see our County financial picture spiral downward and our bond rating now a step above junk bond status. Despite my continuing efforts, along with a small minority in the legislature, the administration and legislative majority has exacerbated the situation.

This financial crisis, while about four years in the making, took off to full speed two years ago when the County Executive rolled out a haphazard idea—the sale of the Summit Park Hospital and Nursing facility as a Public Benefit Corporation. To support this notion, he urged the Legislature to borrow \$18 million to fill an operational deficit in the 2011 budget. Despite my impassioned plea not to do this, the deficit note passed by the minimum nine votes.

That scheme failed. Continued revenue overestimations, plus added hits of \$11 million disappearing out of a leave account, a \$33 million loss at Summit Park over 2010 and 2011, and \$17 million in unachieved employee concessions have created an estimated \$100 million deficit! Considering our deficit was \$9 million going into 2009, you can see why my 2011 description that “County government is rocketing down the hill and the wheels are close to falling off” sadly fits.

In order to attack this problem, I and a few others
(See page #3 please)

I am very proud of a local news reporter’s assessment where he said that in less than one year of serving as an elected official, I had “become well known as one of the most visible and uncommonly accessible Legislators in memory”, despite holding down a full time job outside of politics. Service is a passion, and I will remain true to my mantra of providing you and your families representation based on “people over politics”.



As a former Civic Association President, I know that one important thing is critical to staying true to that thought - Your input!

I absolutely want to hear about your concerns! Please e mail me and also sign up for FREE “Community Updates” - daye@co.rockland.ny.us. OR call me at 638-5100 or 638-5751. I look forward to hearing from you!

“The Saga of the Tappan Zee Bridge”

As I have maintained for years, the construction of a new Tappan Zee bridge is critical to the health, safety, home values, and economics of our County. Too much talk and too little action is a recipe for disaster, especially when we are speaking about a bridge whose shelf life has passed. But that does not mean we need to blindly accept what is being dished out to this community, particularly as it relates to the cost and who is going to pay for it.

The proposed \$14 toll for the new crossing stunned everyone. While most elected officials immediately signed on, my response when interviewed by News 12 – was one word – “Unacceptable”. And here's why:

I publicly exploded the myth of comparing the projected toll cost to the George Washington or NYC-area MTA bridges, as those agencies, unlike the Thruway Authori-

ty, have massive investments in real estate, airports, and the subway. I found it most interesting that the planners had not pointed to the nearby northern bridges in making their projected "toll cost" comparisons, such as the Bear Mountain and Newburgh-Beacon crossings. Maybe because those bridges' tolls range only between a buck or two!

To establish a toll of that magnitude will massively impact this community. The Palisades Mall provides nearly 25% of our entire County sales tax revenue and offsets our property taxes. Don't you think that many Westchester residents who travel here to shop will opt to put their \$14 back in their pocket and shop at destinations such the new Ridge Hill outlet on their side of the Hudson? Government needs to understand that their decisions to implement new costs impact the economics of both commerce and community. (See Page #3 please)

"You cannot raise taxes without efficiencies or cuts to balance that action on the other end. People here are struggling and suffering from the financial situation we are all in, and we cannot continue to increase their cost of living, as exiting our County is fast becoming a viable option for too many."

- Legislator Ed Day at Nanuet Civic Association meeting—May 3rd, 2012



Early this year, I initiated efforts to address the deplorable conditions at the Hi-Tor Animal Shelter during the 2012 legislative session. Additionally, I embarked on an effort of supporting the groundswell of public sentiment that came afterwards.

One such initiative was led by Clarks-town North students who responded to the plight of our animals here in Rockland by spending a day at a shopping center soliciting toys, food, and funds in support of Hi-Tor. They also kicked the "Save Hi Tor" petition drive into "Hi" gear, garnering numerous signatures for the cause! I was happy to join them, not only as a show of support, but also to bring a toy, some food, and a donation.

Advocating For Our Community

As a former Civic Association president, I am keenly aware of the importance of advocacy in local issues and make every effort to make your life easier, safer, and a little bit simpler.

DNA DATABASE LAW

I submitted legislation that successfully called for the passage of a State law, later signed by the governor, that would require people convicted of all felonies and penal law misdemeanors to submit DNA samples. This brings existing and well-tested science to bear to enhance law enforcement efforts in keeping the public safe by both preventing new crimes and solving old ones.

REDUCING JAIL COSTS

I sponsored a resolution that would mandate that

tions assume all financial responsibility for parole violators held in the Rockland County Jail for more than ten days after their arrest. I believed that we should not shoulder the cost nor the risk of repeat felons that are supposed to be in a State facility. Given the increasing costs of State mandates on our taxpayers, we should not also be paying for the failures of a State agency.

MTA PAYROLL TAX

Back in August 2010, I formally requested that Rockland join other suburban counties in litigation against New York State that was designed to overturn the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) Payroll Mobility tax. This was in reaction to the State unfairly foisting this payroll tax upon every individual in Rockland County,

costing our community approximately \$18 million per year. While the County unfortunately elected not to join the suit, it is heartening to see that the court found in favor of the complaint. I urge the MTA to stop the nonsense: drop any appeals, and focus on having City residents pay their fair share while running an agency with some basic efficiency.

UPCOMING ROADWORK

I have been advised by the County Highway Dept. that the following roads in my District will be resurfaced this Fall:

New City: Little Tor Rd between Milich Lane & West Clarkstown Road; Congers Road from Route 304 to Brewery Road.

Pomona: Pomona Road between Routes 45 and 306.



Legislator Day recognizes the value of scouting, and attends many Eagle Scout Court of Honor and Gold Award functions. Here he is seen recognizing Will Badnell, Troop #97, for his achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, at a ceremony held at Street School in New City.

Tappan Zee Bridge (continued from front page)

We are being told "well, we have to pay for it". OK, fair enough—but as this bridge is a major part of the entire Thruway system, why is the cost of replacing it not being spread across the entirety of the system? Why was Rockland, the smallest county in the State, bearing the brunt of the entire cost?

Amazingly, we subsidize the NY Canal System with our Tappan Zee toll dollars! Why? Why are Tappan Zee toll dollars being used to pay for Thruway systemwide projects? What logic is there in having a separate NY Bridge Authority draining toll revenue from the NY Thruway Authority?

It is my opinion that the TZ Bridge project is a golden opportunity to improve the entire funding structure of the Thruway itself. Let's start with funding the upstate Canal system through the general fund or a separate authority. Merge the two highway

authorities into one, bringing in additional revenue to the Thruway and reducing cost to drivers.

The good news is that within days, Governor Cuomo heard these objections and agreed! This would not have happened if I had simply gone along with what is admittedly a necessary and critical project for our community. Rather, this was accomplished by showing leadership and challenging NY State government to do better for the people of Rockland. That is the path I chose, and I will continue to advocate for your best interests as this project progresses.

In the final analysis, I believe the true challenge here is to take advantage of the obvious opportunity for government to do things smarter and leaner, and be assured I will carry that mantra forward each and every chance I have.

County Budget Crisis (continued from front page)

challenged government to implement short term revenue enhancements ONLY if met by structural changes in County government. I likened the situation to a critically ill patient. You must stabilize the patient, but if you do not correct the conditions that sickened him to begin with, you'll be dealing with another emergency soon enough.

Unfortunately, that urging was ignored and a 30% County property tax increase was levied upon us, followed by a 4% energy tax that will amount to the equivalent of another 25% County property tax increase. On top of all that came fees such as cell phone and DMV taxes, and the transferring of costs to the Towns that will show up as an added tax on you down the road. With budget experience in the public and private sector, it was clear to me that, given the

lack of reform, I could not and did not support any of these taxes.

I am on record over the past few years urging the County to cut patronage jobs, withdraw from the MTA, implement a 5% cut in all departments, establish zero based budgeting, dismiss all consultants and any re-hired retired person, and consolidate agencies.

Our fiscal challenges demand that we engage in strategies, not mere reaction, to address them, something I have been urging as far back as 2008.

We are in serious trouble and we need leadership to get us back on the road to being the great County we know we are. And with your help, I hope to do exactly that.

Reading Programs

For many years, I have been involved in our local "Parents as Reading Partners" programs. I see it as an opportunity as your representative to help instill in our children the joy of reading and important life lessons contained within these stories. The fact that I typically run into some of the youngsters I coach just makes it more fun! Two of these events from the spring included (L) Lakewood and (R) Woodglen Elementary Schools.



Legislator Day, a regular "dignitary bagger" in support of Shoprite of Pearl River's efforts in the "Partners in Caring" campaign to feed the hungry here in Rockland, was part of the award ceremony where Shoprite and its employees won the \$500 prize for leading in fundraising, which was promptly donated to "People to People" to assist in their efforts to feed the hungry here in Rockland. A big "thank you" goes to Shoprite, General Mills, the employees, and the very supportive Pearl River community.

"We can no longer accept mediocrity; the same old - same old; half measures; or the usual. We need to join together and attack the problem that keeps government as a drain on us and not a servant to us. And we must hold those who refuse to step up to the plate accountable. Please be assured that I will continue on that path in service to all of you."

County Legislator Ed Day

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"I view being here in these chambers not as an entitlement, but rather as a privilege. I will bring forward the simple, yet rightfully expected notion of "people over politics", and continue to provide for this community a ground up, hands on approach to the representation of, and advocacy for, the people. My pledge to you is simple; I will serve the people of Rockland tirelessly and to the absolute best of my ability; I will meet head on the challenges that confront our families; I will continue to make every effort to make life just a little bit easier for those whom I serve.

Legislator Ed Day, swearing in ceremony, Rockland County Legislature, January 3rd, 2008

2012 Legislative Session

- Serves on Public Safety, Planning and Public Works, Economic Development Committees and Solid Waste Authority Board.
- Legislative Liaison to ARC of Rockland, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland, and Jawonio.

Important Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY 911

County Information	638-5000
County Clerk	638-5070
Consumer Protection	708-7600
Gas Leaks "O&R"	(800) 533-5325
Power Outage "O&R"	(877) 434-4100
Poison Control	(800) 222-1222
Suicide Hot Line	354-6500
Senior Care Help Line	354-3444
Mental Health Hotline	364-2200
Rape Crisis Center	634-3344
Emergency Shelter	364-2907
Clarkstown Town Hall	639-2000
Clarkstown Police	639-5800
Pomona Village Hall	354-0545
Ramapo Police	357-2400

++ CLIP AND SAVE++

"Our Community as One"



As part of that generous, annual effort by Union Restaurant and Bar Latino in the Village of Haverstraw, Legislator Day pitched in to serve the hungry of our community.



A long time youth advocate and coach in our community, Legislator Day was on hand in Suffern to support the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Challenger baseball program here in Rockland.

"Here and There"



A Foundation Board member for ARC of Rockland, Legislator Day again marched with "his family at ARC" during this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Pearl River.



Legislator Day (R), a coach with the New City Rams youth football program, was part of the celebration for players, coaches, and families for the Jr. Midget New York Empire State Championship squad that he coached with.