

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 Tuesday, January 5, 2016 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 31st day of December 2015

The Legislature of Rockland County convened in regular session pursuant to adjournment of the December 28, 2015 special meeting.

Laurence O. Toole, Clerk to the Legislature

Good Evening, Thank you for joining us tonight. 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 2016.

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

A Roll Call being taken at 7:09 p.m., the following Legislators were present and answered to their names:

- Christopher J. Carey
- Harriet D. Cornell
- Toney L. Earl
- Charles J. Falciglia
- Michael M. Grant
- Lon M. Hofstein
- Jay Hood, Jr.
- Douglas J. Jobson
- Nancy Low-Hogan
- Patrick J. Moroney
- Aney Paul
- Laurie A. Santulli
- Ilan S. Schoenberger
- Philip Soskin
- Vincent D. Tyer
- Aron B. Wieder
- Alden H. Wolfe

Laurence O. Toole, Clerk to the Legislature, led in the salute to the flag and delivered the invocation.

Swearing in of Newly Elected Officials

Laurence O. Toole, Clerk to the Legislature

For the purpose of swearing in our Legislature, I ask Rockland County Clerk, Hon. Paul Piperato, to come up and assist.

Honorable Piperato proceeded with swearing in of newly elected officials:

Honorable Douglas J. Jobson	District 1
Honorable Michael M. Grant	District 2
Honorable Jay Hood, Jr.	District 3
Honorable Ilan S. Schoenberger	District 4
Honorable Lon M. Hofstein	District 5
Honorable Alden H. Wolfe	District 6
Honorable Philip Soskin	District 7
Honorable Toney L. Earl	District 8
Honorable Christopher J. Carey	District 9
Honorable Harriet D. Cornell	District 10
Honorable Laurie Santulli	District 11
Honorable Charles Falciglia	District 12
Honorable Aron B. Wieder	District 13
Honorable Aney Paul	District 14
Honorable Patrick J. Moroney	District 15
Honorable Vince Tyer	District 16
Honorable Nancy Low-Hogan	District 17

Nomination by the Honorable Michael M. Grant

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, Happy New Year and thank you for joining us tonight. Moments ago, the entire 17 member County Legislature took the oath of office and committed to serving the people of Rockland for the next four years. We welcomed our newest colleagues, Charles Falciglia, Laurie Santulli and Vincent Tyer to the Legislature. Each brings with them individual talents and life experiences that will contribute to making this body productive in 2016.

At the same time, we say goodbye to our former colleagues John Murphy, Joe Meyers and Richard Diaz. John, as you know, was the longest serving legislator in County history and Richard may have been here the shortest time, but both left their mark on County government. We thank you all for your service.

Our next order of business is to select a Chairperson. It is a critical decision, one that will set the tone for how we work together with one another in this chamber and how we interact with the Administration down the hall. Making the right choice is essential. I believe the right choice is Alden Wolfe and it is my honor to nominate him as Chairman of the Rockland County Legislature for 2016.

During his tenure in this chamber, Alden has consistently demonstrated his Legislative and political skill as a vital member of the leadership team. For the last two years he has led this body as our Chairperson. Prior to that, he served as Vice Chairman, Deputy Majority Leader and at various times as Chair of the Government Operations, Environmental and Rules committees. In all of those roles, Alden has always encouraged collaboration, cooperation and bipartisan solutions to the challenges facing County government.

Alden is known by his colleagues in the Legislature as an innovative, thoughtful and productive lawmaker. He is a champion for environment. Alden is well-known for his work protecting the environment, our natural resources and the public health. His efforts include: local participation in New York State's stream Buffer Plant Restoration Project; urging Congress to extend the Highlands Conservation Act; advocating for the creation of the Rockland/Bergen Bi-State River Commission; encouraging applications for Hudson River Estuary Grants; requesting the FAA prepare a supplement to the 2007 Environmental Impact Statement on Northeast Airspace Redesign Plan; pressing Governor Cuomo to maintain a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing pending a thorough impact analyses and more. Alden also sponsored a Resolution to Exempt County Sales Tax on Commercial Solar Energy Systems in an effort to promote sustainable energy efforts locally.

In 2007, Alden was nominated for the EPA's Environmental Quality Award, recognizing his advocacy on environmental issues.

In 2015, along with Legislators Harriet Cornell and Nancy Low-Hogan, Alden sponsored a resolution, once again passed unanimously by the County Legislature, to call attention to heightened concerns over the transport of highly flammable Bakken crude oil and other hazardous liquids on the CSX rail line that runs through our County from the New Jersey Border to Bear Mountain.

Also in 2015, the Legislature passed a resolution introduced by Alden that encouraged retailers and consumers to reduce or eliminate the use of single use plastic bags.

In the public health arena, Alden was at the forefront of promoting the elimination of trans-fats, phasing out smoking in public housing developments and setting limits on teen tanning, all ahead of similar Federal, State and NYC initiatives. In 2015, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a ruling to require food manufacturers to eliminate or significantly reduce the use of partially hydrogenated oils, "trans fats" in processed food products. Alden introduced "The Rockland County Healthy Heart Act" in 2011.

Alden's leadership in public health was evident again last year when he introduced a law to protect infants and children from the harmful health effects of unnecessary exposure to toxic chemicals found in children's products and apparel.

Perhaps most importantly, Alden has been focused on finding solutions to the County's financial problems. He initiated the Task Force on Fiscal Improvement and was an active supporter of the State Deficit Legislation. Alden's proposals to improve fiscal management, establish a Fund Balance Management Policy, reform employee rehiring practices and strengthen transparency in the annual budget process were all passed by the Legislature. These initiatives and years of hard work and tough decisions, including obtaining deficit financing and embracing a conservative approach to budgeting have resulted in higher credit ratings and lower fiscal stress scores for Rockland.

Alden's efforts on behalf of Rockland's have not been limited to his work in this chamber. He has an extraordinary record of service to Rockland and its many diverse communities. He has been a staunch supporter of Rockland Community College and has served as Chair of the Rockland Community College Foundation. Last year, the RCC Foundation named Alden its "Person of the Year." He is also a former Vice President of Habitat for Humanity of Rockland and was chiefly responsible for the construction of affordable housing in Spring Valley and Hillburn. Since 2000, he has served as a Panel Member and Chair of the New York State Surrogate Decision-Making Committee, helping to ensure that disabled persons receive proper and adequate health care. In 2002, Alden was recognized by the Rockland Business Association and the Rockland Economic Development Corporation as one of "Forty Under 40" business and community leaders of significance in Rockland County. He is also a member of the 2004 class of Leadership Rockland.

Alden is a graduate of Syracuse University College of Law and the Maxwell School of Citizenship, where he received a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Management & Finance from Binghamton University and is proud graduate of Ramapo High School.

Most importantly, Alden Wolfe is a decent human being with a keen understanding of the needs of all Rockland's. He is a man with a sharp intellect, a generous heart, and a calm even demeanor. Alden has proven to be a dynamic, vocal and engaged leader of County government.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with Alden and I am equally proud to nominate him for a third term as Chairman of the Rockland County Legislature.

Thank you.

Second the Nomination by Honorable Ilan S. Schoenberger

During his two years as Chairman of the Legislature, Alden Wolfe has led this body with the same level of independence and commitment to his principles that he held during his previous seven years as a Legislator. As Chair, he reaffirmed to us the many necessary leadership qualities we knew he possessed when he was first appointed, and that is why tonight we are pleased to support him for a third year as Chairman of the Rockland County Legislature.

As a lawyer, Alden helped residents plan for their future; as a Legislator, he helped them build a better one. In his time here, Alden Wolfe has protected our youngest residents by authoring one of the first laws to prohibit the sale of drop-side cribs, which went on to be a nationally recognized issue. He kept our children safe with his law that banned the use of child products that contain Bisphenol A. He safeguarded the health of our families by writing a local law that banned the use of trans fats.

Alden has fought for taxpayers by improving transparency in Rockland County government through supporting the Truth in Budgeting Law, fighting to amend our County Charter, increasing the amount of time the Legislature has to publicly review and discuss our annual budget, and many other important changes he spearheaded and supported.

Alden is not only a public servant as an elected official; his many contributions to the Rockland community are also well noted and recognized. Whether it is his work for the Rockland Community College Foundation, his advocacy for the disabled as member and Chair of the New York State Surrogates Decision-Making Committee, or the many awards he received from charitable organizations, Alden has had an incredible positive impact on the well-being of our County and its residents.

Besides that, he is a very descent nice guy.

I am honored to second the nomination of Alden Wolfe to be the Chairman of the Rockland County Legislature for 2016.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1 OF 2016
SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

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

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 151 of the County Law, and Rockland County Charter Section C2.04, Hon Alden H. Wolfe Legislative District 6, be and is hereby selected Chairperson of the Rockland County Legislature.

Honorable Alden H. Wolfe took the oath of office, which was administered by the Honorable Thomas E. Walsh, Rockland County Surrogate Court Judge.

Remarks by the Chairperson of the Legislature

Honorable Alden H. Wolfe, Chairman

I am truly humbled to be here before you at the beginning of another term on the Rockland County Legislature. It goes without saying that I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the support of my family, my friends and loved ones, and for this I am very grateful. But I really wouldn't be here without the residents of District 6, because it's they who've placed their confidence in my ability to represent them in public debate on issues affecting our County. This is an honor and a privilege that will not be forgotten.

I am also honored and humbled by the confidence placed in me by my colleagues this evening. I thank Judge Walsh for his friendship and for giving of his time this evening to administer the oath. I also offer my sincere gratitude to Michael and Ilan for their kind words. Thank you so much.

I'd also like to thank those who've come out to support me tonight, in particular my girlfriend Annabelle and my daughter Morgan. It's only with your love and support that I am able to put one foot in front of the other and continue to move forward, despite all of the slings and arrows that come with this kind of job. For that, I am very thankful.

I would also like to welcome my new colleagues, and offer whatever I can to help you achieve your goals, to make a difference for those we represent. Being here is an opportunity, and I hope that you make the most of it.

During my time as Chairman, I've met with people from all over the County to learn more about issues affecting communities outside of my district. I have and will continue to have an open door policy. If you want to meet with me all you have to do is pick up the telephone and call. We have our differences, but we are all Rocklander's. I hope to find ways to bridge that which continues to divide us. To find areas of common ground. To develop strategies to foster discussion and debate, and hopefully we could put aside divisiveness and negativity. I know that we can do it. That is exactly what drives me to work toward creating a community here in Rockland that we can all be proud of. And as I have said many times, I hope that in the year ahead, both branches of County government will collaborate and focus on our common goals.

2015 was a year of many successes. Conservative budgeting led to an operating surplus, that will place us in better financial stead as we move into the new year. A grass roots coalition of community members and government officials led to the David vs. Goliath victory of this young century with the defeat of United Water's proposed desalination plant. Villages in Western Ramapo are poised to market themselves to hikers and climbers, leveraging our outstanding natural resources to create economic activity. We launched a taskforce on food recovery. The first County in the nation to do so, bringing statewide and national attention to our efforts. Big things really do get started right here in Rockland County.

In the face of increasing cynicism, I will continue advocating for Rockland County government and the many services that it provides to our citizens. To show that what we do as a County matters, and affects all that live here, from public health to public safety, social services to road maintenance, consumer protection to criminal prosecution. I will continue to champion this message, and ask my colleagues to join me in sharing our pride for what we do as a government.

During my post-graduate studies, I had the honor of attending the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. Inscribed in the lobby of Maxwell Hall is an excerpt from the Oath of the Athenian City State, which I believe reflects what should be the ultimate aspiration of all public officials. I know that I often refer to the Oath in these chambers, and by now I think my colleagues probably could recite it by heart, but as always I feel it particularly appropriate to read at our reorganization meeting, because it represents what the citizens of Rockland County should expect from us as their representatives.

“We will ever strive for the ideals and sacred things of the city, both alone and with many; we will unceasingly seek to quicken the sense of public duty; we will revere and obey the city’s laws; we will transmit this city not only not less, but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.”

The oath goes beyond simply doing no harm, or maintaining the status quo. It signifies an obligation to make our mark, to leave an imprint, to make a positive change in our community. I know that I am far from perfect, but I promise to everyone here tonight, that I will do my best to reward the trust that’s been placed in me, so that when we are gone, Rockland County will be greater, better and more beautiful for us having been here.

Thank you so much.

Nomination by the Honorable Harriet D. Cornell

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, and congratulations to you and best wishes for a wonderful term. It is my pleasure to place the name of Jay Hood, Jr. for nomination of a third term as Vice Chair of the Legislature. I think all my Legislative colleagues will agree that Jay is very open, very direct, very honest and leaves no doubt as to where he stands on any issue. Those are refreshing traits, even endearing, if I may say so. If when one differs with his opinions he is outspoken, but doesn't hesitate to apologize if he later thinks it was an error. Jay is motivated by his love for Rockland, and in particular for Haverstraw where he grew up and still resides.

A product of St. Peter's Elementary School and St. Joseph's High School, Jay played in the Haverstraw Little League and the North Rockland Soccer Association. He graduated from St. Bonaventure University and Villanova School of Law. He practices law in Haverstraw continuing the firm started by his father Hood, Hood and Hood. He has been a Haverstraw Town Councilman, Deputy Village Attorney and deeply involved in his community.

It is his love for his community that impels him to give back in every way he can to make neighborhoods better and safer, to stabilize taxes after the Mirant Power Plant bankruptcy, to fight quality of life crimes and find ways to insure that youths grow up with afterschool programs that help them thrive, and that seniors live in comfort and with dignity.

Some of the organizations that he has been involved with, both as an active participant and as a personal financial contributor, Rotary, Elks, Arts Alliance, Brick Museum, Youth Theater, Quisqueya Sports Club and the Haverstraw Relief Task Force.

He couldn't do all of this without the full support of his wife Julie Meyers, and his two wonderful sons, Avery and Quinlan, who bring so much joy as well as his mother who is actually the third Hood in the name of the law firm.

In the Legislature, as Chair of the Public Safety Committee, which I appointed him when I was Legislative Chair, and happily Chair Wolfe continues this, Jay has become our most knowledgeable member with regard to what is happening in the field of law enforcement. He has brought numerous local, State, and national issues to our attention. Once notable one was the setting of standards for the use of Drones in Rockland County. As Vice Chair he Chairs the Rule Committee of the Legislature and has overseen Charter changes that clarify and enhance the workings of County government. While Jay has dedicated himself to the needs of his Haverstraw and North Rockland roots he well understands our role as County Legislators. Elected not only to represent our districts, but also to serve the best interests of the people of Rockland County.

It is my honor to nominate Jay Hood, Jr. for a third term as Vice Chair of the Rockland County Legislator.

Second the Nomination by Honorable Michael M. Grant

It is my pleasure tonight to nominate my colleague and fellow Haverstraw Legislator, Jay Hood, Jr., as Vice Chairman of the Rockland County Legislature. During his time in County government Jay has become a seasoned Legislator and valuable member of our leadership team. Jay has proven to be an energetic, vocal and involved member of this Legislature and on the important committees in which he serves. He has distinguished himself as Chairman of the Rules Committee, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Vice Chair of Multi-Services Committee and as a valuable member of Budget and Finance. In 2015, Jay took the lead on a number of important issues.

In January, Jay he led the charge against the Administrations unilateral decision to pass along millions in college chargeback costs to the five towns in Rockland.

In March, Jay sponsored a Budget and Finance Committee discussion on Medicaid programs focused on eligibility factors, administration of the programs' services and fraud detection. Through his efforts, the Committee uncovered much misinformation and dispelled some "myths" about Medicaid eligibility. It brought to light the need for additional staff for the Department of Social Services' Special Investigations Unit to examine and pursue suspected instances of Medicaid fraud and abuse.

In April, Jay sponsored Legislation, along with Chairman Wolfe, to create a new \$500,000 project to supplement Hi-Tor Animal Shelter's ongoing capital building campaign and a corresponding state grant of \$500,000 from Assemblyman Zebrowski. Together it should be sufficient to design and construct a suitable replacement facility for Hi Tor.

Later in the year, Jay introduced a law to limit the operation of drones to private or public property with the expressed permission of the property owner and strictly prohibit use in the vicinity of the Rockland County Jail and Sheriff's Complex, government buildings, schools, and houses of worship. In the wake of numerous news reports of accidents and misuse related to drones, you might say this law was almost visionary.

At the end of the year, during the budget deliberations, Jay distinguished himself in a way all Legislators aspire to. He identified a need, collaborated with others, compromised and negotiated to get a better outcome. In the end, he made a difference, and isn't that what we're all here to do?

I know Julie and their sons Avery and Quinlan are very proud and happy for him this evening. I know Jay's mother Cathy is equally proud.

I am delighted to have had the opportunity to work with Jay and I am equally delighted to nominate him for Vice Chairman of the Rockland County Legislature.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2 OF 2016
SELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Mrs. Cornell offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Grant and unanimously adopted

RESOLVED, that pursuant to County Law Section 151 and Rockland County Charter Section C2.04, Hon. Jay Hood, Jr. Legislative District 3, be and is hereby selected Vice Chairperson of the Rockland County Legislature.

Remarks by the Vice Chairperson of the Legislature

Honorable Jay Hood, Jr.

I want to thank Harriet and Michael for their kind words. I want to thank my family, Julie and my two sons who are the light of my life. It is nights like this when I think of my Dad and I wish he were here to see some of my accomplishments and what we are doing here in the Legislature. I miss all the talks we used to have. I know he is watching down on all of us and hopefully guiding us. I want to thank my friends Ramone and Jacqueline, I know how hard you worked for me this past year for the election and I thank you for all your hard work. I also want to thank the great Democratic Party in the Town of Haverstraw. We have an excellent board on the town level led by Howard Phillips, and the West Haverstraw and Haverstraw village level led by Mayor Kohut and Mayor DeMileo. Without the infrastructure that our party has in Haverstraw no Haverstraw elected official would be sitting in their seat. I think it was important for me to mention that.

I want to thank all my colleagues for their faith in me for the third year as Vice Chair. It is a pleasure to serve with you and I hope both sides know that you can come and talk to me about any issue. I really want to be that bridge between the County Executive's office and this body. I think I can do that and I really hope you come to me and we work together in the coming year.

We all have a lot of work to do. We have financial issues to work out and other things that come to our table. I am ready to put in the time and the effort and do my part. Thank you.

Nomination by the Honorable Ilan S. Schoenberger

The Rockland County Legislature has 17 members and 14 staff members, each with their own unique set of responsibilities that help all of us, Democrats and Republicans alike, to do the work of this body. Just like other departments in Rockland County government, the Legislature has seen its staff shrink by roughly a third in recent years. Through it all, Larry Toole has overseen the workings of the Office of the Legislature with incredible dedication and skillful management style we have all come to know and rely on over the years.

In this era of slimmer government, every staff member has taken on more responsibilities than they had when they first began. That the metaphorical ball has not been dropped a single time is owed to the commitment of our staff and the guidance and leadership they receive from Larry Toole as Clerk to the Legislature. Larry's leadership is emblematic of the way that government ought to be run in difficult times—with the dexterity to adapt to changing circumstances and new challenges, and a steady hand that guides all of us through it all.

It is therefore my honor to nominate Laurence O. Toole, the skillful and sound leader that this body cannot do without, to once again be our Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2016. Thank you.

Second the Nomination by the Honorable Harriet D. Cornell

Thank you Chairman Wolfe for the opportunity to second the nomination of Larry Toole as Clerk to the County Legislature, a post he has held for fourteen years with distinction. Larry oversees a staff that facilitates the workings of the Legislature with all its recordkeeping, its development of agendas and documents for votes, communications with the Executive branch and departments, and the constant need to provide research and legal opinions for the Legislature as a whole and for individual Legislators in order for us to have the necessary background information to make wise decisions.

In addition, Larry is the face of the Legislature for the public. He speaks with individuals who call or come in for information or copies of documents. He is unfailing polite and efficient in assisting with such requests. He does us proud with his professionalism, his courtesy and his helpfulness. Any working day in the Legislature can be a high tension one. It may start out in an ordinary way with a list of ordinary tasks to be completed, but it can quickly turn into something else entirely. Some emergency, something that needs immediate attention and it takes flexibility and tact by Larry in handling the issues while fostering and maintaining a positive and collaborative work environment.

Larry has demonstrated his ability to run a ship of State that is both efficient and kind. He is considerate of staff, polite to the public and ever endingly helpful to Legislators. I am happy to second the appointment of Larry Toole to another term as Clerk.

Second the Nomination by Honorable Douglas J. Jobson

I have worked with Larry for a number of years. I agree with most of what my colleagues have said. He has always been honest and his door is always open. He is efficient and polite and honest. He has done this body proud. I happily second his nomination

**RESOLUTION NO. 3 OF 2016
APPOINTMENT OF CLERK TO THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Mr. Schoenberger offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mrs. Cornell and Mr. Jobson and unanimously adopted

RESOLVED, that pursuant County Law Section 475 and Rockland County Charter Section C2.05, Laurence O. Toole, Town of Ramapo, be and is hereby appointed Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature at a salary to be established by the Legislature.

Laurence O. Toole, Clerk to the Legislature, took the oath of office, which was administered by the Honorable Rhoda Schoenberger, Ramapo Town Justice.

Remarks by the Clerk to the Legislature, Laurence O. Toole

Congratulations to all 17 Legislators on your reelection or election this past November 2015. Congratulations to Chairman Alden Wolfe and Vice Chairman Jay Hood on your elections for a third year . Congratulations in advance to the Majority and Minority leaders that will be elected shortly. I am honored and excited to work with you in 2016. Thank you Legislator Schoenberger and Legislators Cornell and Jobson for your kind words nominating me this evening. Your leadership, experience and guidance to our staff and the County workforce is valued and appreciated. You are now three of the four longest serving Legislators in the body at the start of 2016 and most appreciated.

To the members of the body, thank you, for your trust and support in me this year and in prior years. It is an honor to work with all of you and serving our County residents. I, along with Mary Widmer and our staff, look forward to assisting all in 2016. Many thanks to the Honorable Justice Rhoda Schoenberger for administering my oath of office this evening. It is an honor having you join us and thank you for your long distinguished service as Judge in the Town of Ramapo. Thank you all. I wish you the very best in this new year 2016. God bless, thanks.

**RESOLUTION NO. 4 OF 2016
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 pursuant to the Laws of Rockland County Section 149-1 (c) the Clerk to the Legislature be and is hereby authorized to appoint a Deputy Clerk to the Legislature at a salary to be established by the Legislature.

Remarks by Laurence O. Toole, Clerk to the Legislature

It is my honor to again appoint Ms. Mary Widmer, as Deputy Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature for the upcoming 2016 Legislative session. Mary has served as the Deputy Clerk to the body since January 2002 with distinction and honor. She and the rest of our support staff are dedicated, hardworking and professional in providing service to all. I am pleased that Mary and our staff will serve in these roles again for the coming year. Mary, congratulations

AMENDED

**RESOLUTION NO 5 OF 2016
PROVIDING FOR BLANKET BOND FOR ALL
PUBLIC OFFICERS OF ROCKLAND COUNTY
AND FIXING AMOUNT OF COVERAGE**

Chairman Wolfe offered the following amended resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Carey and unanimously adopted

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 2.01 (h) 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 County Law Section 40 and Public Officers Law Section 11; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section C3.02 (n) of the Rockland County Charter, the County Executive shall examine and approve or disapprove the sufficiency of sureties on official bonds and undertakings; and

WHEREAS, the coverage for said blanket bond have previously been reviewed by the Rockland County Department of Law, the Rockland County Insurance Department and the Rockland County Legislature in 2015; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist within the 2016 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:

1. Commissioner of Finance
2. Budget Director
3. Deputy Budget Director
4. Deputy Commissioner of Finance
5. Commissioner of Social Services
6. County Clerk
7. Director of Purchasing
8. Assistant Director of Purchasing
9. Commissioner of Mental Health
10. Commissioner of Personnel
11. Commissioner of Health
12. Commissioner of Planning
13. District Attorney
14. Director of Insurance & Risk Management
15. Executive Director Sewer Operations & Engineering
16. Sheriff
17. Rockland Community College President
18. Rockland Community College Vice President of Finance and Administration
19. Rockland Community College Associate Vice President of Finance/Controller
20. Rockland Community College Director of Finance
21. Rockland Community College Bursar

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. Alden H. Wolfe, Sponsor

Referral No. 9156

**RESOLUTION NO. 6 OF 2016
DESIGNATION OF THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS AND SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLICATIONS
OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND**

Chairman Wolfe offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Jobson 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 Rockland 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 by the Honorable Ilan S. Schoenberger

For the past three years, Legislator Toney Earl has served this body and our caucus as Deputy Majority Leader. Toney was born in Jenkins, Kentucky. He moved to Rockland County in 1981 and resides in Hillcrest. He is a former Health and Safety Director for New York City Transport Workers Union Local 100. He is a member of the First Baptist Church in Spring Valley. He is married to Idette. They have three adult children, Nicole Logan, Tonette Earl Dickson and Toney Earl, Jr. He has four grandchildren, Caleb and Joshua Logan, Sean Dixon and Weldon McWilliams.

Some of Toney's community service includes, Executive member of the NAACP, Spring Valley Chapter, member of Masonic Lodge Empire #5, Chaired the funding projects committee at Mother Hale House, Chaired College Scholarship Committee of the New York City Society of African American Employees. He coached Spring Valley Babe Ruth Baseball, girl's soccer and softball. He is a member of Spook Rock Golf Advisory Committee, and many others.

Toney brings a unique perspective to the Legislature that has contributed to our deliberations and decision making time and time again.

Toney's soft-spoken nature and composed demeanor serves as a calming influence during heated debate, and his passion and commitment for justice and fairness is a constant reminder to all Legislators of why we all chose to serve in this important body.

Toney has always been a voice for those all too often not spoken of; an advocate for those all those too often left undefended. We need more leaders whose agendas help the forgotten, not the formidable. That is why I am pleased to nominate Legislator Toney Earl to be the next Majority Leader of the Rockland County Legislature.

Second the Nomination by the Honorable Jay Hood, Jr.

Toney has done so many things in his lifetime, it is very impressive. Over the last five years I have gotten to know Toney, not only as a Legislator, but also as a man. We have become close, because of the districts we represent. We have two of the district with probably the most lower income levels, which need more services and we are both sensitive to that. We are sensitive to the less fortunate and that is why Toney and I agree on so many things. I also have found Toney to be a man of faith, of moral and a man of the people. He is always thinking of others. He puts others before himself all the time.

It is my pleasure to second the nomination for Toney Earl as Majority Leader. Thank you.

Introduced by:
Hon. Toney L. Earl, Sponsor

**RESOLUTION NO. 7 OF 2016
ELECTION OF MAJORITY LEADER
(TO BE VOTED ON BY MAJORITY MEMBERS ONLY)**

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

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the Laws of Rockland County Section 149-7 that Hon. Toney L. Earl, Legislative District 8, be and is hereby elected Majority Leader of the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2016.

Remarks by the Honorable Toney L. Earl

I'm profoundly thankful to my Democratic colleagues tonight, not simply for selecting me to be the Majority Leader, but because in doing so they have expressed great trust in me to help lead this caucus and this body forward.

On Saturday, I had the opportunity to speak to a group of promising young people in Spring Valley about the very topic of leadership, and I talked to them about how leadership isn't about title, and it isn't about power. It's about humility and the quest for justice in all things.

Being Majority Leader really means being Majority Listener. I've listened not only to my colleagues, but also to the public. I've listened to experts talk about the financial issues still facing our County. I've listened to parents talk about the challenges their kids face in school. I've listened to community leaders talk about the social strife in our streets.

I've also listened to detractors who say this body does not lead, and to those who mistakenly believe that their politics comes before their governing. We will be guided by our conscience and our principles; not dictated by critics and partisans. 2016 will be a banner year for our caucus and this body. We will continue to listen, and we will lead together.

Thank you. God Bless.

Nomination by the Honorable Christopher J. Carey

It is my great honor to nominate Lon Hofstein for the position of Minority Leader. He has distinguished himself on this Legislature and I look forward to supporting Lon as the Minority Leader in the coming year.

Second the Nomination by the Honorable Patrick J. Moroney

It is amazing, Mr. Hofstein has only been a member of this Legislature for a little over a year and to assume the responsibility of Minority Leader is quite an accomplishment. He brings intelligence and wisdom to this body. He is a great guy and a great leader. I am very proud to second the nomination.

Introduced by:
Hon. Lon M. Hofstein, Sponsor

January 5, 2016

**RESOLUTION NO. 8 OF 2016
ELECTION OF MINORITY LEADER
(TO BE VOTED ON BY MINORITY MEMBERS ONLY)**

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

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the Laws of Rockland County Section 149-7, that Hon. Lon M. Hofstein, Legislative District 5, be and is hereby elected Minority Leader of the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2016.

Remarks by the Honorable Lon M. Hofstein

There are people who give of themselves who aren't family, who give their time for you. There is a man in the back, Phil DeGaetano, he sat at a table at a Commission meeting with me and said, "Lon, one day you will be running." I smiled. He said, "You laugh now, but mark my words you will be." Then George Silverman and Rich Kloenne, who were my campaign managers, from May through November alternated weekends driving me around the district, kicking me out of their car, saying I will see you down the road and fill you in on the Yankee score on the way back. Then there is Jim Pietrangelo, Paul Kahn, Peter Reiner, Bill Killian, who would come to endless meetings, give me their thoughts, guide me on the issues and tell me public appearances where they thought I should be. I can't thank them enough. Michael Hull and Jeff Gilles would turn my ideas into English and make me look good. I have to thank Ed Day, Lawrence Garvey and Ralph Sabatini for believing in me and keeping me focused at times when it could be difficult. I want to thank my Uncle Harold, my Aunt Toby and my sister-in-law Valerie and by brother-in-law Dominic.

2016 is a new year, but is it a new beginning. An analogy was written a new year stands before us like a chapter in a book waiting to be written. We help write that story by setting goals. I have had the opportunity to campaign for two consecutive years, which has provided me the opportunity to meet thousands of people, knock on many doors and see many homes with house for sale signs. Time after time homeowners would say the taxes in this County are too high and I am not sure I can afford to stay. The senior citizens fear they will lose their home and the young couples starting out feel they can't afford to stay here. If we don't take control of our finances and become fiscally responsible families will have no other alternative, but to visit their children by using technology such as Skype.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading today."

If Rockland is going to prosper realistic goals must be set. Elected officials must put aside whatever differences may exist and work together. My goal as the new Minority Leader is to work towards achieving better lines of communication with my colleagues across party lines. This will aid us in achieving the ultimate goal of meeting our constituents needs. As Legislators representing 17 district within this County let us commit to strive towards bipartisanship. It is our job to find solutions and not point fingers.

To quote John F. Kennedy, "Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future."

To be successful we must work as a team, be open to new ideas, and always remember we work for the people who elected us. May God bless our great nation and guide us to serve the people of Rockland County. Thank you.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9 OF 2016
ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Jobson offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Wieder and unanimously adopted (8:20 p.m.)

RESOLVED, that the meeting of the Legislature is hereby adjourned to Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DARCY SHAPIN-GREENBERG
Proceedings Clerk