

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 Monday, January 6, 2014 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 2nd day of January 2014

The Legislature of Rockland County convened in regular session pursuant to adjournment of the December 30, 2013 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 2014.

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
- Michael M. Grant
- Jay Hood, Jr.
- Douglas J. Jobson
- Nancy Low-Hogan
- Joseph L. Meyers
- Patrick J. Moroney
- John A. Murphy
- Aney Paul
- Ilan S. Schoenberger
- Philip Soskin
- Frank P. Sparaco
- Aron B. Wieder
- Alden H. Wolfe

Absent: Legislators Toney L. Earl and John A. Murphy

Honorable Alden H. Wolfe led in the salute to the flag.

Nomination by the Honorable Harriet D. Cornell

It is a pleasure to move the appointment of Barry Kantrowitz to fill the vacancy in Legislative District No. 5 occasioned by the departure of Edwin Day who on New Year's Day was sworn in as County Executive. If appointed this evening, Mr. Kantrowitz will serve until the next general election. At that time, according to law, there will be an election to select him or someone else to serve another year filling out Mr. Day's term until the entire Legislature runs for office in 2015

Barry Kantrowitz is a senior partner in the multi-state law firm of Kantrowitz, Goldhamer and Graifman. He handles the day-to-day operations of the firm's non-matrimonial litigation department. Most of his time is dedicated to preparing and trying cases relating to professional malpractice and corporate and complex commercial disputes. Barry has the highest possible rating from Martindale-Hubbell, which is the respected legal rating agency. He has a 5.0. For each of the past four years he has been selected as a Super Lawyer in New York by superlawyers.com. He has lectured to college students at Brandeis and Boston Universities and has taught classes to train future lawyers.

For the past 14-years Barry has lived in New City with his wife Sharon and four children. Barry was born in the Bronx and moved to Rockland County as a child in 1967. He attended Fleetwood and Eldorado Elementary schools, Spring Valley Junior High School and Spring Valley High School. After his junior year in high school Barry was accepted at Harper College, SUNY Binghamton and graduated from there in 1982 with a Bachelors in Political Science. He attended Boston University School of Law where he graduated Cum Laude with a Juris Doctorate Degree in 1985 and immediately returned to Rockland County to practice law. He is licensed to practice in the State and Federal courts in New York, New Jersey and Florida and the United States Supreme Court.

Barry has been very active in the community life of Rockland County. He is a graduate of the first class of Leadership Rockland in 1990-1991. He has served on community boards including Junior Achievement of the Hudson Valley, Rockland Community College Foundation, Jewish Federation of Rockland, and the JCC Rockland where he served as President for several years. At the JCC Rockland Barry was the driving force in the acquisition, construction and development of the JCC's new campus in West Nyack. Under his leadership the JCC started the planning of the prestigious international Maccabi games for youth in 2012. Based upon his local service at the JCC Barry was selected to serve on the board of the National JCC Association, which is the continental umbrella organization for the Jewish Community Center movement.

He has demonstrated his love for Rockland through his community involvement and his approach to contributing his service to building a stronger and more cohesive Rockland. With his outgoing and friendly personality and his expressed intentions to reach out to all the people of Legislative District 5 he will be a wonderful representative for them. His legal background, expertise and his experience working with various ethnic groups in Rockland will make him a great asset to the Legislature. It is an honor and pleasure to nominate Barry S. Kantrowitz to fill the vacancy of Legislator of District 5.

Second the Nomination by Honorable Alden H. Wolfe

I have known Barry Kantrowitz for many years and in many capacities. As an attorney, Barry has demonstrated his keen intellect in the courtroom. As a civic leader, he has demonstrated his caring interest in the community. His dedication to his family and the service of others has distinguished him in New City and in Rockland County as a whole.

That is why it is my honor and privilege tonight to second the appointment of a colleague and a proven leader, Barry Kantrowitz, to the Rockland County Legislature filling the seat for Legislative District Number 5.

Barry and I served together on the board of the Rockland Community College Foundation. On that board, I had the chance to see his incredible commitment to improve the lives of college students here in Rockland and help make their goals for higher education a reality.

This may be Barry's first day in public office, but it is not his first day in public service. Barry's kindness, his lengthy record of community and civic involvement, and his outstanding analytical and intellectual mind, will be a great asset to this legislative body. I have no doubt that Barry Kantrowitz will be an effective Legislator and an outstanding colleague for us all. Thank you.

Introduced by:

Hon. Harriet D. Cornell, Sponsor

**RESOLUTION NO. 01 OF 2014
APPOINTMENT TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE –
LEGISLATOR FROM LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 5**

Mrs. Cornell offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Chairman Wolfe and unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, there exists a vacancy on the Rockland County Legislature from legislative district 5, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Rockland County hereby appoints Barry S. Kantrowitz, of the Town of Clarkstown, New York, within Legislative District 5, to the Rockland County Legislature to the position of Rockland County Legislator, Legislative District 5, formerly held by the Hon. Edwin J. Day, said appointment to take effect immediately.

Honorable Barry S. Kantrowitz, with his family at his side, took the oath of office, which was administered by the Honorable Robert M. Berliner, Supreme Court Judge.

Remarks by the Honorable Barry S. Kantrowitz

It is an honor and privilege to accept this appointment to the Rockland County Legislature. I want to thank the Clarkstown and Rockland County Democratic committees that nominated me. I want to thank my new colleagues on the Legislature for voting unanimously to appoint me.

I have lived in Rockland County since 1967. After going to college and law school I returned back here to start practicing law. For the last 28 ½ years I have represented individuals and businesses of Rockland County in my professional practice as an attorney. Together with my partners, I have been an effective advocate for individuals, families, and businesses in the judicial branch of government helping them work their way through what is sometimes a very convoluted court process. I am looking forward to using those skills to give my constituents, my friends, my neighbors a voice in the Legislative branch of our County government. I recognize that I have been appointed and not yet elected. I am very pleased that virtually all the comments that I have heard from the people that know me have been overwhelmingly positive. There are plenty of people who don't know me and I pledge that I will take the time and make it point over the next two months to seek them out and meet them and get to know as many of them as possible.

My wife Sharon and I have lived together in New City for the last 14 years. She is also a practicing attorney and a graduate of Clarkstown South High school. I am a product of the East Ramapo School system; in fact my mother was a teacher there. As Legislator Cornell mentioned, I attended Fleetwood, Eldorado, Spring Valley Junior High School and Spring Valley High School where I graduated with honors. Our two young children here tonight, Michelle and Daniel attend Woodglen Elementary and Felix Festa Middle School. My oldest Son David has a SUNY Cortland Bachelor of Science Degree in Education and a Masters in Health Education and he is a health education coordinator for community outreach at Staten Island University Hospital. My oldest daughter Melissa, who couldn't be here tonight, is a junior at the University of Pennsylvania.

As a father, as a taxpayer, as a homeowner, as a business owner and a longtime community volunteer in numerous community boards, organizations and non-profits, I understand the concerns and needs of the people of Rockland County.

I just paid my real estate tax bill last week. I just received notice of increase in my health insurance premiums. I am concerned about property values, and I understand the value of and I am extremely thankful for receiving an excellent public school education. My legislative district crosses the Clarkstown and East Ramapo school districts and although the problems of East Ramapo are not within the jurisdiction of the County Legislature, I will do what I can to work with legitimately concerned families and their state representatives to insure that the children of East Ramapo can get the same quality public education that I got when I grew up there.

I exchanged congratulations with our new County Executive last week at his inauguration. I am now his legislator. He comes from this body, so I am sure that my colleagues here join me when I say I hope we can work together with mutual respect to restore and repair Rockland's financial crisis. I am not and will not be a rubber stamp for anyone. But I do believe that it is important to work together for people with the same goals, but perhaps different thoughts on how to get there to reach compromises and to move our County toward fiscal stability. United we can accomplish a lot, divided, well we know what happens then just take a look at Washington DC.

It's not going to be easy, but as I tell my kids almost every day, nothing worthwhile comes easy. I know I have a lot to learn, but I have a lot to offer. I look forward to facing the challenges that we have ahead of us. I thank you again for your support and let's get on with the business of governing. Thank you very much.

Nomination by the Honorable Harriet D. Cornell

Members of Legislature and members of the public, it is my honor tonight to nominate Alden Wolfe to serve as Chair of the Rockland County Legislature. Being chairwoman for these last nine years was an honor and one of the greatest responsibilities of my life comparable only to the rollercoaster of parenting my four children, ultimately successful, but full of thrills and chills along the way. Being chair isn't all that different if you follow a few rules; listen attentively, treat everyone with courtesy, try to build consensus and above all always remember the mission – the best outcome for the people of Rockland.

I am proud to say this Legislature has avoided the partisan politics that often thwarts positive actions by State and Federal Legislative bodies, because while we may disagree on some issues we never lose sight of that mission.

In Alden I am passing the baton onto capable and experienced hands. As an attorney and a man of reason and intellect Alden will help to lead the County forward into a new era of sustainable growth. During his years in the Legislature he developed important legislation, including formation of an Executive Legislative Taskforce on Fiscal Responsibility and measures on environmental health and safety, phasing out smoking in public housing, calling for elimination of dangerous cribs for infants and requiring parental approval before young teenagers can go to tanning salons. Community activities have included participation with Rockland Community College Foundation and Habitat for Humanity.

We have experienced some challenging times during the last night years and have had to make very difficult and painful decisions eliminating vital community services and reducing the County workforce. Alden has been a leader in seeking solutions that have helped to put us back on track toward economic and social recovery.

I am confident that Alden Wolfe will be a strong leader working for all the people of Rockland and avoiding the pitfalls of partisan politics. I look forward to working closely with him on key projects that continue to be a priority for the people of Rockland, including addressing the issue of water resources with a comprehensive water plan, protecting commuters from bearing the cost of construction of the new Tappan Zee Bridge, and fighting to ensure that Rocklander's have the transit options that we need and deserve on the west side of the Hudson.

Alden, I offer my congratulations as you assume this post with its new challenges and a new County Executive. I look forward to assisting you in any way possible to ensure that your tenure is successful. It gives me great pleasure to nominate Alden Wolfe as Chair of the Rockland County Legislature for 2014.

Second the Nomination by Honorable Ilan S. Schoenberger

Alden brings his love of government and his love of community to the Chairmanship of the Rockland County government. 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 here in Rockland County.

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 has also supported the Truth in Budgeting Law, which is a law to ensure that salaries for elected officials and those appointed for a fixed term conform to the budget 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 generate grease and oil 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 knew 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.

I am honored to second the nominate Alden Wolfe as Chair of the Rockland County Legislature for 2014.

Second the Nomination by Honorable Michael M. Grant

Good evening Ladies and gentlemen. Happy New Year and thank you for joining us tonight.

Last Wednesday, Rockland witnessed the inauguration of the first new County Executive in two decades when our former colleague Ed Day took the oath of office. We wish Ed the best of luck, we pledge our honest and sincere cooperation and we look forward to working with him as we serve the people of Rockland together.

Moments ago we welcomed Barry Kantrowitz to the Legislature as the new representative of District 5. Barry brings with him a wealth of talent and experience that will surely make this body stronger and more effective going forward.

Now that we are all getting settled in, our next order of business is to select a chairperson. It is an immense responsibility and a decision that will set the tone for how we work together with the administration and how we interact with one another. Making the right choice is crucial. The good news is that this Legislature has a proven track record of making the right choice for chair. Harriet Cornell led this body for a record nine years with intelligence, grace and an unmatched commitment to Rockland. Harriet, thank you for your work on behalf of Rockland County. We are certain that you will continue to provide energetic leadership on a host of issues including transportation, education, water policy and more. It is imperative that, like Harriet, all of us give equally of our time, our energy and our ideas to the work that lies ahead.

And now it is my honor tonight to second the nomination of Legislator Alden Wolfe as Chairman of the Rockland County Legislature for 2014.

During his tenure in this chamber, Alden has consistently demonstrated his legislative and political skill as a key member of the leadership team. In his roles as Vice Chairman, Deputy Majority Leader and at various times as chair of the Government Operations, Environmental and Rules committees Alden has always encouraged collaboration, cooperation and bipartisan solutions.

Alden is known by his colleagues in the Legislature as a thoughtful and productive lawmaker. As Chairman of the Legislature's Environmental Committee he is well known for his work to protect the environment and our natural resources, including local participation in New York State's Stream Buffer Plan Restoration Project, urging Congress to extend the Highlands Conservation Act, advocating for the creation of the Rockland/Bergen Bi-State River Commission, encouraging the river communities and eligible organizations to apply for Hudson River Estuary Grants, requesting the FAA prepare a supplement to the 2007 Environmental Impact Statement on Northeast Airspace Redesign Plan, and pressing Governor Cuomo to maintain a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing pending a thorough impact analyses and certainly more than that. 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 the public health arena, Alden was in 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 New York City initiatives.

Perhaps most importantly, Alden has been focused on finding solutions to the County's dire 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 and reform County employee rehiring practices were all passed by this Legislature.

Alden's efforts on behalf of Rocklander'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. He is 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.

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. The Maxwell School is the oldest public affairs school in the United States. It is regarded as one of the country's most prestigious schools of public policy.

Alden has often spoken of the Oath of the Athenian City State, which is emblazoned on the wall of the Maxwell School. The oath expresses every expectation we have for Alden's concept of governing and his leadership focus.

It reads:

"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."

I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with Alden and I am equally proud to second the nomination of Alden Wolfe as Chairman of the Rockland County Legislature for 2014.

**RESOLUTION NO. 02 OF 2014
SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

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

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 151 of the County Law, 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 Judge.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky, Chair of the Rockland County Democratic Committee, presented Chairman Wolfe with a gavel.

Remarks by the Chairperson of the Legislature:Honorable Alden H. Wolfe, Chairman

I have to say from the outset that I am 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 Harriet, Michael and Ilan for their kind words. It is a little disconcerting to me to sit here and listen to these types of comments, and I find myself wondering whether they were really talking about me or somebody else. Thank you very much.

For me, tonight marks the beginning of a new professional challenge, and nothing could be more challenging than following in the footsteps of a person like as Harriet Cornell. I have such admiration and respect for her and her nominating remarks mean so much to me. She cares deeply about Rockland County and if I can only bring a fraction of her dedication to this position, then I will have done my job well. But let's not forget that she is not going anywhere, and I look forward to continuing to rely on her experience and her expertise as we move forward together in the future.

I would also like to thank my family, my friends and my loved ones who have come out to support me tonight. Most importantly of course my daughter, Morgan. She was there in January of 2006 at age 4 when I was first appointed to the Legislature, and has been with me for every swearing-in since. She is simply the most important thing in my life. I hope that when she is all grown up she will want to make Rockland County her home. This is what drives me to work toward creating a community here in Rockland that we can all be proud of.

I also offer my congratulations to our new County Executive, Ed Day. Ed and I first took office as Legislators on the same night, and we have enjoyed a strong working relationship ever since. I hope and trust that this year will bring with it a new era of cooperation between the branches of government. I know that he plans on being a strong and effective leader, and I look forward to working with him and his administration as true partners in government.

The past few years have seen our County dealing with the most challenging economic conditions in generations. In Rockland, we have struggled to find the right balance between providing services to our residents and generating the revenues needed to pay for them. Put simply, nothing ever gets cheaper. We have had to make some very difficult decisions, but here at the beginning of 2014 I believe that Rockland County has turned the corner.

I am proud that we have a balanced budget for this year that incorporates both the recommendations of our independent auditors and the requirements of the New York State Comptroller. We have conservative revenue estimates and a spending plan that sets us up for a year in the black. We are in the process of implementing our painful decision to sell our nursing home and hospital. Our deficit-financing request has been approved by New York State. We have adopted a fund balance management policy, which creates a rainy day fund to help us manage future events. Rockland is poised for success.

But the work is never over. This year, I plan to continue exploring changes to our budget process that would give us more time to review the County Executive's proposed budget and broaden the choices that are available to us. With many of my colleagues, I will continue to advocate against the unnecessary and costly desalination plant and oppose what essentially amounts to a water tax for all Rockland County residents. In the coming weeks I will also be introducing a non-emergency water conservation law that will maximize conservation and heighten awareness of our most wasteful water use practices. But most importantly, I plan on being an advocate for Rockland County government and the myriad of services that it provides to our citizens. As chairperson, Harriet Cornell has always highlighted the many ways that Rockland County government affects our lives, from public health to social services, road maintenance to consumer protection, land records to criminal prosecution. I will continue to champion this message, and I ask my colleagues to join me in sharing our pride for what we do as a government for the people of Rockland County.

Michael knows me very well, because he actually took the time to go online and find out the Oath of the Athenian City State. I am very impressed, because during my post-graduate studies, I had the honor of attending the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. As Michael has said, inscribed in the lobby of Maxwell Hall is an excerpt from the Oath. 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 I do feel it appropriate to read it tonight myself, because to me 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.”

Think of those words; greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us. We as Legislators have an opportunity not given to many; we have the chance to make our mark, to leave an imprint and 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 has been placed in me, so that when we are gone Rockland County will truly be greater, better and more beautiful for us having been here.

Thank you.

Nomination of 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.

Jay was raised in Haverstraw, graduated from St. Peter's Elementary School, St. Joseph's High School, and St. Bonaventure University and Villanova School of Law. Since his admission to the bar Jay has been a partner in the private law practice of Hood, Hood and Hood Esquires. He has been recognized for his work on behalf of the county's low-income residents and received the Pro Bona Legal Services Award.

In addition to his six years in the Legislature, Jay's career in public service has included a stint as Town Councilman in Haverstraw and as the Village of Haverstraw's Deputy Village Attorney. He has also served as chairman of the Waterfront Action Committee and coordinated the Haverstraw's successful Downtown Façade Program.

During his time in County government Jay has become a seasoned Legislator and valuable member of this branch's leadership team. Jay has proven to be an active, vocal and engaged member of this Legislature on the important committees in which he serves. He has distinguished himself in this chamber as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Vice Chair of Multi-Services Committee and as a valuable member of both Budget and Finance and Rules committees.

In 2013, Jay was selected by his peers to be the Democratic Majority Leader. He has consistently demonstrated his ability to cross the aisle to work in a bipartisan manner, as he has done this on numerous occasions with our new County Executive Ed Day.

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. If there is a little bit of sadness tonight it is only that Jay's dad could not be here to share in this moment. I am sure he would be proud as well.

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.

Second the Nomination by Honorable Ilan S. Schoenberger

Toney Earl was supposed to be here tonight to second Jay's nomination, but he is ill and unable to attend so I have been asked to fill in for Toney and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Jay Hood, Jr. was raised in Haverstraw, played in the Haverstraw Little League and the North Rockland Soccer Association. He is here with his wife Julie Meyers and his two sons Avery Lucas Hood and Quinlan Reece Hood. He went to St. Peter's Elementary School, St. Joseph's High School, and St. Bonaventure University and Villanova School of Law. Jay is a partner in a private law practice of Hood, Hood and Hood, Esquires.

Jay was a Haverstraw Town Councilman and Haverstraw Deputy Village Attorney. He was chairman of the Haverstraw Waterfront Action Committee, chairman of the Haverstraw Youth Theater and involved in numerous other community organizations.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Jay for quite a few years, including when he was in Haverstraw village and town government. He is just a very decent fine man. He cares a great deal for his family and his community. I remember his late father; we are both practicing attorneys and we had a number of business deals together as attorneys representing clients. He continues his father's tradition of honesty and decency towards all people. Jay is a man you can work with. He is a listener and a thoughtful speaker and his word is his bond.

He is going to be a great Vice Chairman of this Legislature. I am very honored to second his nomination.

**RESOLUTION NO. 03 OF 2014
SELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

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 selected Vice Chairperson of the Rockland County Legislature.

Honorable Jay Hood, Jr. with his family at his side took the oath of office, which was administered by the Honorable Paul Piperato, Rockland County Clerk.

Remarks by the Honorable Jay Hood, Jr., Vice Chairman

I would like to welcome Legislator Kantrowitz. I am looking forward to working with you. Thank you all for coming out tonight. Thank you Michael and Ilan for all your kind words, it has been great working with you and I look forward to the coming years. Of Course I have to thank Harriet for all the work you have done for us over the last nine years as chair and just being a mentor for me since I have been here. You are really a mentor for all public officials in Rockland County and I think you for that. I would like to thank all my colleagues for their confidence in me for the selection as Vice Chairman after a year as the Majority Leader. It was a good year and I enjoyed working with Legislator Carey as the Minority Leader. We did get a lot done in the budget season together and I think we have the best budget we have seen in quite some time, with all the hard work of Legislators Grant and Wolfe also.

I look forward to working with the new County Executive. I have had a good working relationship with Legislator Day now County Executive Day. I am glad to see Stephen Powers here who will be the liaison between the bodies and I think that is really going to help us going forward. County Executive Day being here for so many years knows what we go through here. I believe he will be much more user-friendly to work with and I think it is going to help government and the County in general.

My family, thank you for coming out tonight. I know it is not easy being married to a politician out so many nights, and then there are election seasons. I actually cured them from being involved with politics after tonight probably.

I am going to steal a line from Ed Day's acceptance speech, "Today, in a very public way, I am going to say something I do not say often enough." Julie, I thank you and I love you.

Nomination by the Honorable Ilan S. Schoenberger

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, including license plates. 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 2014.

Second the nomination by the Honorable Jay Hood, Jr.

I know how hard you work at your job. You run a great office and have a great staff and it is because you run it so well from the head. I am glad that we have become such good friends over the years. It is a pleasure your nomination as Clerk to the Legislature.

**RESOLUTION NO. 04 OF 2014
APPOINTMENT OF CLERK TO THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Mr. Schoenberger offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Hood, Jr. 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, 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 Chairman Alden Wolfe, Vice Chair Jay Hood and Legislator Barry Kantrowitz on your selections and swearing-in this evening. I am honored and excited to work with you in 2014.

Thank you Legislator Schoenberger and Vice Chair Hood for your kind words and nominating me this evening. Your leadership, support and guidance to our staff and County employees is appreciated and valued. To the members of the body, I thank you for your support and trust in me this year and in prior years. It is an honor to work with all of you in serving our County residents. I look forward continuing to assist you all in 2014.

Many thanks to Judge Rhoda Schoenberger for administering my oath of office this evening. Congratulations on your reelection this past November and the very best to you and your new term on the bench. Your service on the bench is long respected and admired by our town and County residents. So thank you again.

Thank you all again. I wish you all the best in 2014.

**RESOLUTION NO. 05 OF 2014
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.

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 2014 legislative session. Mary is very dedicated and efficient in her service, which is well known to all of us in this room and to those in need of assistance that contact our offices each and every business day of the year. Her work along with the rest of our super support staff is of the highest professional caliber. I am very pleased that she will serve again in this role for the coming year. I look forward to working with you again in 2014.

**RESOLUTION NO 06 OF 2014
PROVIDING FOR BLANKET BOND FOR ALL
PUBLIC OFFICERS OF ROCKLAND COUNTY
AND FIXING AMOUNT OF COVERAGE**

Chairman Wolfe offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Grant 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 2014 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. Alden H. Wolfe, Sponsor

Referral No. 9156

**RESOLUTION NO. 07 OF 2014
DESIGNATION OF THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS AND SUPPLEMENTAL
PUBLICATIONS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND**

Chairman Wolfe offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Hood, Jr. 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 by Honorable Jay Hood, Jr., Vice Chairman

I want to thank Legislator Grant and Legislator Schoenberger for mentioning my father, because most nights like this its hard not to think about him and I wish he were here to see this for me.

I have had the pleasure to sit next to Legislator Wieder for the last year or so, and to the annoyance of Chairwoman Cornell sometimes, because we do have discussions during the meetings. I think that just shows how passionate he is about the job and he feels very strongly about things. Once he gets going we have some really good conversations, even outside the office. You can look at us and say that we are from different worlds, but you would be surprised on how much we agree on; moving capital projects along in our districts and asking the State to alleviate some of the crushing State mandates, which he has been very vocal on. He has become a friend. He has a passionate and reasonable voice for his district and Rockland County. I have actually learned a lot from him. I look forward to working with him and it is an honor to nominate him as our Majority Leader.

Second the nomination by the Honorable Harriet D. Cornell

I am happy to second the nomination of Aron Wieder for Majority Leader. With his votes and his voice Aron has frequently sought to raise awareness of the burdens placed on Rockland County by costly State mandates and the slowness of reimbursement from the State for the monies the County is forced to spend to accomplish the mandated services.

The role of Majority Leader is to build consensus around a Legislator agenda that is set by the chair and the Majority caucus. This is a very important post and Aron is eagerly looking forward to this new challenge. It is commendable that he is willing to serve and I am happy to second the nomination of Aron Wieder for Majority Leader.

Introduced by:
Hon. Alden H. Wolfe, Sponsor

January 6, 2014

**RESOLUTION NO. 08 OF 2014
ELECTION OF MAJORITY LEADER
(TO BE VOTED ON BY MAJORITY MEMBERS ONLY)**

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

RESOLVED, that Hon. Aron B. Wieder Legislative District 13, be and he is hereby elected Majority Leader of the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2014.

Remarks by the Honorable Aron B. Wieder, Majority Leader

Thank you Mr. Chair. Thank you Legislator Hood, I will miss sitting next to you we did have some good times, but we will continue our friendship. Thank you Legislator Cornell, you have been and inspiration and a tradition in Rockland County. I would like to thank every single member of the Democratic caucus for nominating yours truly as Majority Leader.

Rockland County is facing monumental challenges the likes we have not seen in recent history. Between economic gloom, social strife and everything in the middle it has morphed into a real crisis. Citizens throughout the County are filled with angst and uncertainty, yet they have granted us their trust that we will confront these challenges and navigate the County throughout these difficult times.

What ought we to do? How should we address this calamity? The answer, as always, lies within. Within our great American experience; within our great American history, within our great American culture.

Whenever we as a nation, as a people, have faced grave danger, such as recently the attack on our homeland on September 11, 2001 or as far back as the struggle for independence, the inner strength that gave us hope and perseverance throughout was unity. I will never forget all the American flags propping up throughout our country in unity on September 12th.

As a nation we are comprised of many different religions, races, ethnic groups, cultures and backgrounds, all unique yet when untied we are indivisible perhaps even invincible. There is no challenge, crisis or danger that can devastate a united people. Indeed unity is the nucleus of our prosperity.

So, it is no surprise that our forefathers have chosen to name the American experience, The United, United States of America. "*United we stand, divided we fall.*" I have no doubt that we will weather this storm and we will live to tell the story, because it will be the story of a united Rockland County.

For the purpose of moving forward I would like to nominate my colleague, who is not here today due to an illness, Legislator Toney L. Earl as Deputy Majority Leader. Thank you.

Nomination by Honorable Frank P. Sparaco

It is an honor to nominate Christopher J. Carey for Minority Leader of the Rockland County Legislator for 2014. He has done an excellent job over the last year and I wish him the best of luck for 2014. I look forward to working with him.

Being a Minority Leader is a thankless job. It is very difficult to form a consensus among so many strong personalities, but Cris has natural leadership ability and he is able to accomplish this with ease.

I would also like to take this moment to thank Harriet Cornell for her years of service as the Chairwoman. Legislator Cornell, any time I ever think about you I could just say that you are a class act, a classy women. You have an art form of telling people "no". Usually when somebody tells me no I spend the next few days figuring out a way to torture them so that they never tell me no again, but I never felt that way when you told me know. You were a class act and it was an honor working with you as Chairwoman. In twenty or thirty years there are a few names that I will probably be able to brag about that I worked with, Senator Morahan and you. It has really been an honor to work with you. Thank you.

Second the Nomination by Honorable Douglas J. Jobson

It is my pleasure to second the nomination for Christopher J. Carey. I wish him nothing, but the best for the 2014 legislation session. I want to thank and congratulate all my colleagues on their positions.

Introduced by:
Hon. Christopher J. Carey, Sponsor

January 6, 2014

**RESOLUTION NO. 09 OF 2014
ELECTION OF MINORITY LEADER
(TO BE VOTED ON BY MINORITY MEMBERS ONLY)**

Mr. Sparaco offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Jobson 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 2014.

Remarks by the Honorable Christopher J. Carey, Minority Leader

I would like to thank my fellow colleagues for their continued trust in mean to serve as the Minority Leader. It means a great deal to me and it is a responsibility that I take very seriously and I look forward to doing it again in 2014.

I just want to add to Legislator Sparaco's comment regarding Harriet Cornell. In my tenure over the last two years we have been through some rough times. Despite things getting very heated Harriet always remained above the fray. She was a leader, a true professional and I thank her for her service. I look forward to her continued coaching for us going forward, thank you Harriet.

I would like to congratulate Barry Kantrowitz for joining this body and I look forward to working with him closely as a fellow Clarkstown Legislator. I also offer my congratulations to Alden, Jay and Aron on their positions tonight as well as to Larry and Mary.

I am going to continue to focus, as I have since I have joined, on the fiscal crisis that is before us. That to me is the most pressing matter and really nothing else matters until we get that under control. I know there are folks who believe that we have turned the corner. I am a pessimist when it comes to that, because I do not think we have yet and I think we as a board need to continue to work hard finding ways to reducing the deficit and getting us back to sound fiscal footing. I pledge to do this in a professional manner, to work with my peers. It is easy to throw rocks and a lot harder to build consensus. As a Minority Leader, and as a minority of five out of seventeen, we have nothing but the opportunity to work as a team. I look forward to that challenge and to working with my colleagues. Jay Hood, I also enjoyed our working back and forth as Majority and Minority leaders in 2013. I look forward to that same give and take with Aron Wieder in 2014.

I just want to say that we all know we are coming off a very big election. Twenty years is a long time for a County Executive and now we have a new one. I want to make sure that we as a body don't lose sight of the work that we were elected here to do. I commit to keep our eye on the ball and focus on what needs to be done and stay out of the political rock throwing. I don't think anybody wins by doing that.

I also want to nominate Legislator Frank P. Sparaco as my deputy for 2014. I look forward to a very prosperous year and that we can hopefully move further and further along in getting out of the crisis that we are in. Thank you for your support.

Comments from the Chairman:

Honorable Alden H. Wolfe

I just want to mention we have light refreshments in the legislative conference room. Thank you all. I look forward to a really wonderful 2014. Thank you all for coming tonight.

**RESOLUTION NO. 10 OF 2014
ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Jobson offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Hood, Jr. and unanimously adopted (8:15 p.m.)

RESOLVED, that the meeting of the Legislature is hereby adjourned to Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DARCY M. GREENBERG
Proceedings Clerk