

Press



Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Legislature Approves Hiring Investigators To Uncover Medicaid And Social Services Fraud

New City, NY (July 8, 2015) – The Rockland County Legislature approved the hiring of two Social Services Investigators during its meeting Tuesday night. The two investigators will pursue all allegations of fraud by beneficiaries of Medicaid and other social service programs in Rockland County. This action was in response to a public legislative meeting in March on social service fraud spearheaded by Chairman Alden Wolfe and Vice Chair Jay Hood that included District Attorney Tom Zugibe.

Medicaid is a federal program that provides health services to eligible low-income adults, families, children, and people with disabilities. In New York State, counties are required to pay 50% of the state's share. For Rockland County, that amounts to \$73,600,000, which adds up to 70% of the County property tax dollars collected.

"This legislative action will enable our County to expose Medicaid and social services fraud, so that taxpayers don't pick up the tab for cheaters," Chairman Wolfe said. "We will work to root out fraud in the system while we ensure that those who deserve and qualify for the assistance of those programs receive it with dignity."

Salaries of the two investigators will not impact the County budget at all. Federal and state aid covers 72% of their pay; the remainder will come from savings gained from existing salaries.

"Fraud exists in these programs and it is our obligation as elected officials to uncover and end that fraud," Vice Chair Legislator Hood stated. "If we are to be serious about ending the abuse of social services in our County, we need the staff to do so, and the legislature's hiring of these investigators fulfills that need. I look forward to seeing the results of their work in short order."

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