

Press



Release

11 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY (845) 638-5100 Fax: (845) 638-5675 Email: legclerk@co.rockland.ny.us

For Immediate Release

Contact: Laura Incalcaterra
Communications Director
Rockland County Legislature
(845) 638-5184

Wolfe's Position Unchanged On Jennings' Rejection

Legislature Chair Continues Support For CDBG Program Investigation

New City, NY (Nov. 15, 2016) – Rockland County Legislature Chairman Alden H. Wolfe said he has not changed his position regarding the confirmation of the county's Acting Human Rights Commissioner.

Wolfe continues to back an investigation into Rockland County's CDBG program after a statement by the County Executive about "wrongdoing and possible corruption" and his vow to "get to the bottom of where this HUD money has gone." Wolfe has since been advised that a HUD investigation has already been initiated.

"My position regarding the Acting Human Rights Commissioner hasn't changed," Wolfe said. "The reasons for the rejection were clearly stated at the meeting by those who chose to speak. My vote was based upon her failure to follow through on her commitment to be responsive to Legislators."

Acting Human Rights Commissioner Dr. Penny Jennings signed a questionnaire in which she acknowledged that the executive and legislative branches are co-equal branches of Rockland County government and that she had a responsibility to both branches. She also agreed to provide information to Legislators, but ignored emails and calls from Wolfe and his assistant, and failed to attend any committee meetings for weeks. It now is also clear that she failed to advise the Legislature of issues within the CDBG program.

“The subsequent disclosure of an investigation within the CDBG program and the fact that despite my request of her, the press has more information than Legislators do, further supports my position on this issue,” Wolfe said.

Wolfe backs investigations into the CDBG program. He formally requested such action last week in memos to the Rockland County District Attorney’s Office and the Office of Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C. and to the Office of General Counsel’s Region II Regional Counsel in Manhattan.

“In an effort to further politicize the position of Human Rights Commissioner, the County Executive has made a very serious and irresponsible accusation - that Legislators have interfered with an ongoing investigation by rejecting Dr. Jennings’ appointment. This is an utter fabrication,” Wolfe said. “Despite my request of Dr. Jennings, no details of any kind related to this investigation have been provided to us. We are not mind readers, and rely on our department heads to provide us with timely, relevant information on all issues concerning County government.”

###

Visit us: <http://rocklandgov.com>

Like us: <https://www.facebook.com/rockleg> ~ Follow us: <https://twitter.com/RockLegislature>