

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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STATEMENT BY ROCKLAND LEGISLATURE CHAIRMAN ALDEN H. WOLFE REGARDING TOXIC FREE TOYS ACT

Wolfe: Why didn't Ed Day veto the law?

New City, NY (Nov. 9, 2015) – On June 16, 2015, the County Legislature unanimously passed the Toxic Free Toys Act, which protects children from harmful and carcinogenic chemicals such as benzene, mercury and lead. The bill became law when County Executive Ed Day declined to veto it, adding Rockland to a growing list of communities which have enacted laws to protect our children against an array of deadly chemicals in toys.

Once again, Ed Day is now engaging in a very public attack campaign, calling the law “absurd” and “ill-conceived.” The question is: Why didn't Ed Day veto the law when he had the opportunity? Instead, he allowed it to be adopted by his acquiescence. If he was aware of language problems or the potential for litigation, the responsible course of action would have been to veto the law when he had the chance, or even better - reach out to the Legislature prior to our vote.

No one from the County Executive's Office, the Law Department, the Office of Consumer Protection or the Health Department offered any comment whatsoever regarding the law prior to its unanimous adoption by the Legislature - not when it appeared on our agenda, not at the committee meeting when it was discussed and not at the public hearing. This is particularly puzzling because the County Attorney's Office drafted and issued the notice of public hearing.

We do things very differently at the Legislature. We don't point fingers; we seek collaborative solutions. No law is ever perfect, which is why I've been working with industry representatives since the concerns were first raised to explore amendments that would address their concerns while preserving the core purpose of the law - to protect our children from toxic and carcinogenic chemicals. I'll always place the health and safety of our children above the interests of industry, and I'm confident that we can work together to strike the right balance.

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