

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, 2015 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 30th day of December 2014

The Legislature of Rockland County convened in regular session pursuant to adjournment of the December 29, 2014 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 2015.

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
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
Aron B. Wieder
Alden H. Wolfe

Absent: Legislators Michael M. Grant and Frank P. Sparaco

Honorable Alden H. Wolfe led in the salute to the flag and delivered the invocation.

Swearing in of Newly Elected Legislator, Hon. Lon M. Hofstein, District 5

Honorable Lon M. Hofstein took the oath of office, which was administered by the Honorable Scott B. Ugell, Town Justice, Town of Clarkstown.

Remarks by the Honorable Lon M. Hofstein

I first would like to thank my wife Rose Marie, my daughter Ali, and my sons Daniel and Tony for all they have done and the sacrifices they made. I want to do a special thank you to Bob Zeiss, who worked very hard for us. I didn't have the opportunity to know Bob for a long period of time. I met him in February and he stayed by my side throughout. He never, ever let any of know how he was physically feeling and his ailments. Whenever you said to Bob, "How are you" he would always say "I'm fine." Whenever you needed him Bob was there. Bob, I know you are with us tonight.

To the rest of you, I can name you all, but my wife made it very clear that people do not want to hear me speak forever. So I say to all thank you for all the sacrifices you made on my behalf, all the evenings and the weekends, especially those of you who drove in the car with me and lived through the in and outs and coming out to get me when I spoke to long.

2015 is a New Year, a time for all of us in Rockland County government to wipe the slate clean and place our differences behind us.

Two messages rang true and clear in 2014, the people of our County do not just want change, they are demanding it. Secondly, our single focus and goal is to effectuate change by putting aside self-promotion and pettiness. We need to work together as a unified team whose objective is the betterment of our County. It is our responsibility to bring both sides to the table, compromise and find agreement in order to implement meaningful and positive change

President John F. Kennedy once stated: "Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

These are truly words of wisdom. Words I personally believe in. Words we should live by if Rockland County is to stand strong, and prosper.

I went door to door speaking with the people of this community. Their concerns held a common theme, escalating taxes, out-of-control spending, homes in foreclosure and the next generation's inability to afford living here. We have been elected to address and solve these very legitimate concerns. The people are looking to our leadership to confront the issues that face this County and find workable solutions.

Today I commit to you that I am starting my term as a Legislator with an open mind. I commit to you that I will weigh all options or arguments from both sides of the aisle and do what I think is right for the people of this County. I gave my word to the people who's doors I knocked on, and who's votes brought me here today that I will be their voice in this Legislature.

I extend my hand to my colleagues in the Legislature and ask that in 2015, we work together for our community. The well being of the people of this great County, and the lives of future generations, which will be impacted by the very decisions we make.

May God Bless Our Great Nation, and guide us to serve the citizens of Rockland County. Thank you very much.

Nomination by the Honorable Jay Hood, Jr.

It is my honor to nominate Alden Wolfe for a second year as Chair. It was a difficult year especially though the budget season recently and he guided us through it with class and dignity, and that is the type of man that he is. I can go on about Alden being a lawyer and intelligent, but I think it is most important to look at the man and the type of person he is. He is kindhearted, thoughtful, a team player and everything you would want in a leader. The district and the County should be very proud to have him as our Chair.

I nominate Alden H. Wolfe as Chair of the Legislature for 2015.

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 Legislature. Alden has an extensive education with a Bachelor's Degree in Management and Finance from Binghamton University, a Masters Degree in Public Administration with 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 the 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 disabled 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 Municipal 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. She would be very proud to see Morgan here with him.

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 nomination Alden Wolfe as Chair of the Rockland County Legislature for 2015.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01 OF 2015
SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

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

The vote resulted as follows:

Ayes:	14	(Legislators Carey, Cornell, Earl, Hofstein, Hood, Jr., Jobson, Low-Hogan, Moroney, Murphy, Paul, Schoenberger, Soskin, Wieder, Wolfe)
Nays:	01	(Legislator Meyers)
Absent:	02	(Legislators Grant, Sparaco)

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

Remarks by the Chairperson of the Legislature:

Honorable Alden H. Wolfe, Chairman

I appreciate you all being here tonight and braving the cold.

Judge Walsh, thank you so much for your kind words and your friendship and taking the time to come out tonight to administer the oath. Thank you to Jay and Ilan for making all kinds of things up about me; seriously, I appreciate your support and the bipartisan support of my colleagues who are once again placing their trust in me. I thank my family, unfortunately my father is closer than he normally is. He is normally in Florida this time of year, but is actually in New Jersey and was supposed to be here tonight. Unfortunately he is under the weather so I am sorry that he is not able to be here. I am sure he would be much happier in Florida where it is 80 degrees. My daughter Morgan, who as an eighth grader and is once again completely thrilled and delighted to hear her dad talk about her in public. I also want to thank my girlfriend Annabelle, who is always supportive of me despite her not so secret distaste for politics, and her sons Kevin and Daniel. Most importantly, I thank the people of Rockland County who have been especially supportive this past year.

And what a year it was. A part of me looks back thinking that 2014 was a year filled with lots of political distractions that pulled our focus away from the important business of government, but in truth, it was an unprecedented year of accomplishment for this body and its members. I'll give a few examples:

In 2014, we pulled off something that I don't think that anyone could ever have predicted, and that was our successful opposition to United Water's proposed desalination plant. Everyone in the State and indeed the nation is now looking at the Public Service Commission's findings as a landmark decision. This was a classic David vs. Goliath victory where community activists joined with elected officials refused to let up, putting the interest of the ratepayers above corporate profit. I'm honored to have been part of this process, which led to the creation of the Rockland County Task Force on Water Resource Management. The task force and its mission hold so much promise for us all. I thank Harriet Cornell for her leadership, and I praise the County Executive for his cooperation in signing the enabling Legislation. Thanks must also be given to my colleagues in State government, in particular Ellen Jaffee and Ken Zebrowski, who let Albany know what's best for Rockland County. And of course, the Rockland Water Coalition, whose nonstop pressure moved us all. With the task force now in place Rockland is poised to become a model in sustainable water use for the entire nation.

Charter reform is an important issue that many of us had been working on for several years. Last year, we worked very hard to craft a law with positive changes for Rockland County. We negotiated the language in good faith and reached an understanding with the Administration, only to see our trust betrayed with an executive veto. We overrode the veto in these chambers with bipartisan support. We struggled to educate the public about something that, admittedly, isn't really very exciting, and in a landslide, the public approved the measure at the November referendum. We owe thanks to our Vice Chairman Jay Hood, who as Chairman of the Rules Committee picked up where I left off after becoming Chairman last year in January. I'm also grateful to those of you in the community who stood with us and supported these important changes, recognizing that changes that promotes good government matter, no matter how small.

This year's budget process unleashed energy and unity not been seen in recent years in our county. Members of law enforcement stood shoulder to shoulder with our not for profit agencies, from every corner of Rockland County. The feeling in these chambers was electric, and at the end of the process 4 of 5 Republicans and 11 of 12 Democrats stood together in true bipartisan fashion as Rocklanders. Don't believe what you read, this year's budget process wasn't a battle over fiscal responsibility. It was a fight for our values as a community. I firmly believe in what economists have consistently found, and that is that cutting jobs and essential programs thwarts economic growth. As we proved, this body Republicans and Democrats alike don't believe in tax shifting, or gambling with our public safety or balancing our budget on the backs of our neediest. I give my thanks to Michael Grant, who unfortunately could not be here this evening, who as Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee dedicated himself to finding ways to do the right thing for all of Rockland County.

Let's be clear. While our County has faced fiscal challenges, so much about Rockland still makes it an ideal place to live and raise a family. The average Rockland resident is comparatively well off compared to the State and the nation. In the 6th wealthiest State in our country, we rank 6th highest in per capita income, and 4th highest in both household and median family incomes. Our unemployment rate is the second lowest in the Hudson Valley.

So it's important not to confuse the County's fiscal difficulties with our residents' well being. We are not as some suggest on the brink of collapse, breadlines and worse. However, I say with sadness that not everyone here is prospering. Rockland's 13 plus percent poverty rate disturbs me deeply and should disturb all of us. During 2014, I've been fortunate to meet people from all over the County and to learn in more detail about the needs and hopes of communities outside my own Legislative District. It's been a pleasure to visit dozens of agencies and programs and my admiration overflows for the work that's being done with such limited financial resources. That's why I'm especially proud that this body has made it a priority to support those who dedicate themselves every day to make life better for Rockland's most vulnerable.

Our non-profits embody the can-do spirit of Rockland. As I continue to make visits around the County, I see that spirit everywhere, and that makes me optimistic about the year ahead. Economic challenges remain, but Rockland is poised to succeed.

So where does that leave us for 2015? What are the priorities for this New Year? I'll share a few with you.

I'll continue to explore strategies to make Rockland County a more attractive tourist destination, building on the transit and tourism workshop I held in June, and working with local leaders in our village and hamlet centers to discuss how to draw more people to our spectacular parks, shops, restaurants and attractions. I'll also continue working collaboratively with the board of the Rockland Economic Development Corporation, its fantastic CEO Michael DiTullo and members of our business community, to explore ways to make Rockland County more attractive to business and industry.

A related priority is the outcome of the Tappan Zee Bridge. I'm working with other Legislators and village officials to ensure that the new bridge supports the economic interests of the river villages and our County as a whole. If done right, the new Tappan Zee Bridge can provide tremendous economic benefits for our County. We must work together so that Rockland gets our fair share of the new mass transit system benefits.

It's unforgivable that a snack at an afterschool program might be the last meal of the day for a child. I learned this during my visits to places like the Martin Luther King Center in Spring Valley and the Nyack Center in Nyack and it's emboldened me to focus on this critical issue. I'll be meeting with groups to see what more we as a County can do to strengthen their work, especially in ways to make food rescue easier. No one should ever have to experience food insecurity, especially in a County where so many are prospering. I look forward to working collaboratively with agencies such as Catholic Community Services, People to People, Touch, Meals on Wheels and Tomche Shabbos to help meet this silent epidemic and ensure that no one in Rockland ever goes hungry.

I'll continue to monitor the CSX train safety with my colleagues. I thank Congresswoman Nita Lowey for her vigilance in Washington and Sheriff Falco for demanding vital information that first responders need in case of an emergency.

Our experiences this past year taught us that we can move beyond our ethnic, religious, racial and gender-based boundaries, because our shared values are stronger than our differences. We all want a prosperous, harmonious County where our families can thrive. I believe that it's our responsibility to find that common ground and to build from there, which is why I'm happy to announce that we'll be working with VCS on a program that's been very successful in the past, entitled "Not in Our Town." We hope to build on our shared American values and respond to incidents of bias whenever they may occur.

Make no mistake, Rockland has its share of problems, but acknowledging our challenges and championing our opportunities aren't mutually exclusive. As our fiscal condition continues to improve, now is the worst possible time to disparage Rockland County. Negativity will only undermine our progress. We must stand together committed to moving forward. As I said this time last year, I hope that in the year ahead, both branches of County government will collaborate and focus on our County's common goals. I'm proud to be part of a body that values and personifies this ideal. No one is perfect, least of all me, but I know that this Legislature is willing to roll up its collective sleeve and meet our challenges head on.

Again, I thank you, my colleagues for putting your trust in me by giving me another year to serve as Chairman. We left 2014 on a high note, and I have a feeling that a year from now, we'll look back and say--"Wow! Didn't think it could get much better, but it did." I'm confident that if we all work together in harmony, 2015 will be a wonderful, healthy and happy year for Rockland County.

Thank you.

Nomination by Honorable Alden H. Wolfe, Chairman

Jay is someone who has been a true partner working very closely with me and Legislative leadership this year on a lot of very important initiatives. I remember when I became Chairman and Jay became Vice Chairman we had a conversation and Jay said that he really looked forward to the opportunity to serve on the leadership and essentially take his Legislative service to the next level. I have to say that he has risen to the challenge. He is outspoken, he is intelligent, committed and he cares deeply about Rockland County. It is my honor and privilege to nominate Jay Hood as Vice Chair.

Second the Nomination by Honorable Ilan S. Schoenberger

Jay Hood, Jr. was raised in Haverstraw, played in the Haverstraw Little League and the North Rockland Soccer Association. His wife Julie Meyers and his two sons Avery Lucas Hood (8 years old) and Quinlan Reece Hood (5 years old) cannot be here tonight, but they are the loves of his life. He went to St. Peter's Elementary School, St. Joseph's High School, St. Bonaventure University and Villanova Law School. Jay is an attorney in private law practice In Haverstraw.

Jay was a Haverstraw Town Councilman and a Haverstraw 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 many years, including when he was in Haverstraw village and town government. He is just a very fine decent man. He cares a great deal for his family and his community. I knew and remember his late father, we were both practicing attorneys and we had a number of legal matters together 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.

Jay led this Legislature in our recent Charter amendment, which was overwhelmingly approved by the people of Rockland County.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 02 OF 2015
SELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Chairman Wolfe offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Schoenberger 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 he is hereby selected Vice Chairperson of the Rockland County Legislature.

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

Nomination by the Honorable Ilan S. Schoenberger

The work of the Rockland County Legislature is as complex as the issues it addresses. Such work includes crafting Legislation, research, legal and governmental expertise, the ability to draft referrals and resolutions, and to supervise the administration of the office and the 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 required to perform our Legislative duties.

Tonight, we salute the staff who carry out their responsibilities, and the man who has the ultimate responsibility of leading them. For thirteen 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, for 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 to help. 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 2015.

Second the nomination by the Honorable Jay Hood, Jr.

I would also like to second the nomination of Laurence O. Toole as Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature. I have gotten to know Larry very well over the years. He has a very difficult job. To keep seventeen single-minded district Legislators inline is very difficult. He comes through every time when we ask. The office runs very smoothly. There is never a problem that I hear about, he just takes care of it. He is on the ball all the time. I appreciate all the hard work that he does.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3 OF 2015
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 pursuant County Law Section 475 and Rockland County Charter Section C2.05, 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 Chairman Jay Hood and Legislator Lon Hofstein on your selections, elections and swearing-in the evening. I am honored and excited to work with you in 2015. Thank you Legislator Schoenberger and Vice Chair Hood for your kind words in nominating me this evening, and last year as well, I really appreciate it. Your leadership, support and guidance to our staff, and County employees in valued and very much appreciated.

To the members of this body, thank you very much 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 to continuing to assist all in 2015.

Many thanks to Judge Rhoda Schoenberger for administrating my oath of office this evening. It is an honor to have you join us this year and in past years, and thank you for your long service in the Town of Ramapo, which is the town I reside in as well.

Thank you all, I wish you the very best in this New Year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 04 OF 2015
AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO THE LEGISLATURE TO
APPOINT A DEPUTY CLERK**

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

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the Laws of Rockland County Section 149-17, 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 appoint Mrs. Mary Widmer from Garnerville, New York, Town of Haverstraw, as Deputy Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature for the upcoming 2015 Legislative session. I am pleased and proud to be able to work with Mary, and the rest of the fine Legislative staff, in addressing the County's business in 2015. All are honored to assist County residents and other parties in need of information or assistance throughout the year. Congratulations Mary.

AMENDED

**RESOLUTION NO 05 OF 2015
PROVIDING FOR BLANKET BOND FOR ALL
PUBLIC OFFICERS OF ROCKLAND COUNTY
AND FIXING AMOUNT OF COVERAGE**

Mr. Earl offered the following amended resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Jobson 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 County Executive's Office and the Legislature in 2014; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist within the 2015 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. Commissioner of Hospitals
9. Commissioner of Mental Health
10. Commissioner of Personnel
11. Commissioner of Health
12. Commissioner of Transportation
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
19. Rockland Community College Associate Vice President
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. 06 OF 2015
DESIGNATION OF THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS AND SUPPLEMENTAL
PUBLICATIONS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND**

Mr. Moroney offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Carey 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 Harriet D. Cornell

I congratulate Chairman Wolfe and Vice Chairman Hood on their continue leadership. I also offer congratulations to our new colleague Lon Hoffstein. I appreciated your approach and words and I wish you great good luck.

I am pleased to nominate my colleague Aron Wieder for another term as Majority Leader. It pleases me for several reasons. One reason is that Aron has shown himself to be deeply vested in the issues that come before us, issues that affect the people of Rockland, wherever they live and no matter whose Legislative district is involved. He would be as concerned and supportive of remediation of flooding issues in my district as in his, or as concerned about public safety in the Villages of Nyack and Haverstraw as in his own district. This to me is what it means to be a County Legislator, to be able to understand and make decisions in the best interest of the entire County, while still representing one's constituency in the best way possible.

Aron has also shown himself to be compassionate and considerate when it has come to voting on some of the saddest issues this Legislature has had to deal with over the past years, the human issues involving personnel and job loss. I remember his saying at a Legislative meeting a few months ago "why are we being asked to eliminate jobs months earlier than the anticipated date? Why would we do that right before the holidays and harm people who depend on their salary?" And of course, we didn't do that.

Aron is smart, intelligent and passionate about public service. He has been outspoken with regard to the unfunded mandates that burden County government not because the reason for the mandates requirement is bad, usually it's very good, but because the County is caught between a rock and a hard place, providing the service without State funding or, when State funding is available, having to wait often years for reimbursement while still being pressed to stay under a State budget cap.

The role of Majority Leader is to build consensus around a Legislative agenda and to work with the Minority to reach agreements. This is a very significant post, and I am happy to place the name of Aron Wieder in nomination for Majority Leader in 2015.

Second the nomination by the Honorable Ilan S. Schoenberger

Aron Wieder has served us well as our Democratic Majority Leader in 2014. His leadership helped keep our Majority balanced and our individual concerns addressed during the difficult choices we faced in 1014.

Aron just returned today in time for this meeting from Washington DC where he participated in the ceremony of installing a Mezuzah at the Congressional office of freshman Congressman Lee Zeldin from Long Island who I am told is the only Jewish Republican in the House of Representatives

Aron represented all of us at the White House on December 17, 2014 for the second night of Hanukah candle lighting ceremony with President Obama. And also celebrated the release of Alan Gross from prison in Cuba with his mother-in-law.

I chose these two examples out of many I could have chosen to show that Aron is a man that doesn't do just for the people of Rockland County and the Democratic Party, but beyond as well.

I am proud to second the nomination of Aron Wieder for Majority Leader for 2015.

Introduced by:

Hon. Aron B. Wieder, Sponsor

**RESOLUTION NO. 7 OF 2015
ELECTION OF MAJORITY LEADER
(TO BE VOTED ON BY MAJORITY MEMBERS ONLY)**

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

RESOLVED, that Hon. Aron B. Wieder, Legislative District 13, be and is hereby elected Majority Leader of the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2015.

Remarks by the Honorable Aron B. Wieder, Majority Leader

Good evening.

First, I would like to thank Chairman Wolf, and Vice Chair Hood. I would also like to thank Legislator Cornell, who is an inspiration for me personally and for many in Rockland County. Throughout the budget process many of the not-for-profits and individuals came and they all spoke about your role and being a role model for them.

I would also like to thank Legislator Schoenberger who is the life and soul of this body, and contributes tremendously for the good people in Rockland County. I would like to thank my good friends and colleagues of the Democratic caucus for nominating yours truly as the Majority Leader. I would also like to congratulate Legislator Hofstein and thank him for his kind words that he told me personally before the meeting.

Last year in my remarks on this very same occasion I stated the following, "Rockland County is facing monumental challenges in the likes that we have not seen in recent history, between economic gloom and social strife and everything in the middle, it has morphed into a real crisis, citizens throughout the County are filled with angst and uncertainty."

Indeed, the above has not been an exaggeration, this past year has been a very, very tough year, and unfortunately there were those who compounded the problem by indulging to the lowest of their political instinct.

Nevertheless, I'm so proud of the work that this body has done to confront these very difficult issues. It was this body that was the anchor in the storm and the guiding light in fiscal and political turmoil.

This body Republicans and Democrats put party politics aside and came together with their resolve to put the safety, the wellbeing, and the fiscal stability of the people of Rockland County first. If we proceed in this effort and stay united, and we stay focused, we will weather the next storm and the next storm and the following storm that will most certainly come our way.

I pledge tonight that I will continue to work with all of you like I did in the past to make Rockland County the gem in the Lower Hudson Valley.

For the purpose of moving forward I would like to appoint my colleague and good friend Legislator Tony L. Earl as Deputy Majority Leader.

Thank you, good night, and may God Bless America

Nomination by Honorable Joseph L. Meyers

As a newly coined member of the Minority, as a Democrat in exile, I find myself pleased to nominate Chris Carey as Minority Leader of the Rockland County Legislature for 2015. Chris is well known by all of his colleagues on both sides of the isle as being conscientious, thoughtful, hardworking and extremely diplomatic in his endeavors as a County Legislator. He recently proposed a compromise on the budget to breach the divide between the County Executive's position and the County Legislature's position. Although that compromise did not win the day it further demonstrated his ability to work hard, come up with a detailed plan and present it. He was lauded by both that supported and did not support the proposal for his hard work and his approach to that measure. It is my pleasure to nominate Chris Carey for Minority Leader for 2015.

Second the Nomination by Honorable Lon M. Hofstein

I would like to second the nomination of Chris Carey. Chris puts endless amounts of time for the County, and I think there is no doubt in any Legislator's mind that Chris Carey is a true gentleman, an honorable person and someone that serves his constituents well. It is my honor to second the nomination of Chris Carey for 2015 Minority Leader.

Introduced by:

Hon. Christopher J. Carey, Sponsor

**RESOLUTION NO. 08 OF 2015
ELECTION OF MINORITY LEADER
(TO BE VOTED ON BY MINORITY MEMBERS ONLY)**

Mr. Meyers offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Hofstein and unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that Hon. Christopher J. Carey, Legislative District 9, be and is hereby elected Minority Leader of the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2015.

Remarks by the Honorable Christopher J. Carey, Minority Leader

I want to thank my peers in the Minority for again putting their trust in me. 2015 is going to be a challenging year and I look forward to working closely with members on both sides of the isle to do what is right for the future of Rockland County. Thank you.

I will be selecting Lon M. Hofstein as the Deputy Minority Leader

**RESOLUTION NO. 09 OF 2015
ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Murphy offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Jobson and unanimously adopted (8:00 p.m.)

RESOLVED, that the meeting of the Legislature is hereby adjourned to Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DARCY SHAPIN-GREENBERG
Proceedings Clerk