

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Brought To You By The Rockland County Legislature

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Legislative Actions: Meeting Of Oct. 19, 2016

The 17-member Rockland County Legislature holds two full board meetings each month where it votes on a variety of issues that affect the daily lives of 235,000-plus local residents. This is a bi-weekly recap of some of the highlights of each meeting.

Highlights In This Update:



TOBACCO BAN?



NO TO ANCHORAGES



SUPPORTING VETS



AIDING LAW OFFICERS



HELPING HAITI



GROWING GREEN



FAMILY SERVICES



ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

TOBACCO BAN? Legislators held a public hearing to obtain input on a proposal to ban the sale of all tobacco products in pharmacies or health care facilities in Rockland. If adopted, the new law will be known as the Tobacco-Free Pharmacies Act. Seven people voiced support while none opposed the measure. Legislators will continue to review the issue with a possible vote in the future. **The bill's main sponsor is Legislator Nancy Low-Hogan (D-South Nyack).**

HUDSON RIVER ANCHORAGES OPPOSED Everyone around here knows how vital the Hudson River is when it comes to the environment, tourism and just plain beauty! For those reasons and more, **Legislators voted 14-0 to oppose** a U.S. Coast Guard proposal to allow 43 berths at locations totaling more than 2,400 acres between Yonkers and Kingston, including Tomkins Cove. **The resolution's main sponsors are Legislators Harriet Cornell (D-West Nyack), Alden H. Wolfe (D-Montebello) and Jay Hood Jr. (D-Haverstraw).**

SUPPORTING VETERANS Legislators continue to recognize local veterans for their contributions to our nation and our county with the appropriation of \$1,250 to the **John H. Secor American Legion Post 329 of Pearl River** for the purpose of patriotic observances. **Legislators voted 14-0 to support the resolution, whose main sponsor is Legislator Patrick Moroney (R-Pearl River).**

BACKING LAW ENFORCEMENT Legislators maintain their support for the work of local law enforcement, **voting 14-0 to appropriate** \$100,000 in forfeiture funds to the **Rockland County District Attorney's Office** for the purpose of wiretap operations and consulting costs. Such ops are considered a vital tool that assists law enforcement in building cases.

GROWING GREEN **Legislators voted 14-0 to approve** a new partnership between the **Rockland Farm Alliance** and **Rockland Community College**, which will work to build a new campus greenhouse for the benefit of student and faculty-based research courses and projects; student and community-based veterans' job development; and education for senior citizens interested in agriculture. The Farm Alliance will pursue the \$10,000 grant needed to build the greenhouse.

FAMILY SERVICES Rockland County contracts with organizations to provide services for the good of our residents. This week, **Legislators voted 14-0 to approve** a \$41,778 agreement with **Nyack Center** to provide youth and family services, and to approve a \$1,901 agreement with **Christ Church of Ramapo** to provide food pantry services to at-risk community members. They voted 13-0 to approve a \$13,275 agreement with **Jewish Federation of Rockland** for programs to improve parenting skills and parent-child relationships with a focus on literacy, learning, child development & healthy social interactions; Legislator Wolfe, who sits on the Federation's board, abstained.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS Ensuring safe county roads is an ongoing task and **Legislators voted 14-0 to** approve resolutions that allow for construction work on the **Orangeburg** Road bridge over the CSX access road (\$15.9 million cost) and on the Suffern Lane intersections at Hammond Road and Thiells-Mount Ivy Road in **Haverstraw** town (\$7 million cost). The federal government will reimburse the county for 80 percent of the costs; the state will cover 15 percent; and the county covers the remaining 5 percent. The **county Highway Department** oversees the work.

HELPING HAITI AFTER MATTHEW **Legislators voted 14-0 to back** a resolution that allows the donation of surplus equipment and supplies from the Summit Park

Hospital & Nursing Care Center for **Haiti relief efforts**. The county will work with local agencies to coordinate the donation, requiring a detailed plan outlining how the materials will be shipped and dispersed. Haiti, which already grapples with immense poverty and is still recovering from a massive 2010 earthquake, was hard hit by Hurricane Matthew. Many residents of Haitian descent live in Rockland and Legislators offered their best wishes during this difficult time. **Legislators Toney Earl (D-Hillcrest) and Aney Paul (D-Nanuet)** have been working with local Haitian organizations to identify ways to help. Earl, a board member of **Visions of Haiti**, is planning to deliver & distribute medicine and supplies in Haiti in 2017. He is also working with **Konbit Neg Lakay** & the **Haitian American Nurses' Association** on ways to help.



Above, Legislator Aney Paul, Pastor Joseph Labannette Antoine of Bethel Church in Haiti, Pastor Rev. Nathaniel Demosthene of First Timothy Church in Spring Valley & Legislator Toney Earl. The pastors were guests of the Legislature this week, and both are working to bring relief to Haiti.

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