

The Legislature of Rockland County



JAY HOOD, JR.

Legislator – District 3

Chair, Public Safety Committee

Members Present:

Leg. J. Hood, Jr. Chair
Leg. T. Earl, Vice Chair
Leg. D. Jobson
Leg. N. Low-Hogan
Leg. A. Paul
Leg. P. Soskin

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Leg. M. Grant
Leg. L. Hofstein
Leg. A. Wieder
Leg. C. Carey
J. Krygon
S. Levine
G. Wren
J. Birnbaum, Esq.
N. Longo
K. Weber

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015
6:00 PM

ROLL CALL
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2015

**MOTION TO ADOPT:
JOBSON/LOW-HOGAN**

UNAN

1. REF. #3147 - CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF GEORGE CICH, AIRMONT, NEW YORK TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD
[COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE]
(EDWIN J. DAY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE)
DL# 2015-01177

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
PAUL/EARL**

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, EARL, JOBSON, LOW-HOGAN, PAUL, SOSKIN

2. REF. #3147 - CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF LISA CASTALDO GREEN, GARNERVILLE, NEW YORK TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD
[COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE]
(EDWIN J. DAY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE)
DL# 2015-01376

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
JOBSON/HOOD**

UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, EARL, JOBSON, LOW-HOGAN, PAUL, SOSKIN

3. REF. #6924 - APPROVING FIVE (5) YEAR INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE TOWNS OF CLARKSTOWN AND RAMAPO FOR 9-1-1 DISPATCHER TRAINING REQUIRED BY LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT (PSAP) FOR A TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
[OFFICE OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES] (\$100,000)
(GORDON W. WREN, FIRE AND EMERGENCY)
DL# 2015-00682

MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/PAUL, EARL

UNAN
TRANSFER TO B&F 4/28/15

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, EARL, JOBSON, LOW-HOGAN, PAUL, SOSKIN

4. REF. #9458 - *DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION ITEM:* ILLEGAL SUBDIVISIONS IMPACT ON FIRST RESPONDERS - GORDON WREN, DIRECTOR OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
(HON. CHRISTOPHER CAREY, LEGISLATURE)

Carey introduced the discussion, and commended Gordon Wren for his work on highlighting the issue of illegal subdivisions in Rockland. Fines for such actions need to be increased. This presentation was already given by Gordon Wren for a different public event.

Gordon Wren said he worked on creating a task force to tackle the issue of illegal housing in Rockland in 2009. Residents were able to make anonymous complaints about suspected violations, and they were investigated.

In some municipalities, inspectors responded and landlords were fined. In other places, cases were brought in but were never concluded, or the fines were very small. Clarkstown increased its fines and enforcement.

A lot of the illegally subdivided houses are converted into offices or rooms with mattresses. These run the risk of electrical fires, which happen often. Homes are also being converted into schools, with safety issues being dealt with after many delays.

Mr. Wren showed different pictures of structure fires in buildings that have illegal units in them.

Legislator Wieder asked about what penalties a tenant would face for dividing a home without the owner's knowledge.

Mr. Wren replied that the tenant should be held accountable for that.

Chair Hood thanked Mr. Wren for his presentation.

DISCUSSED

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 6:35 PM
JOBSON/EARL

UNAN

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