

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

[joint with COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION]

MINUTES: October 6, 2008

MEMBERS (E&E): Chair: Abinanti; Legislators: Harckham, Maisano, Myers, Nonna, Oros, Rogowsky

MEMBERS (LEG): Chair: Burton; Legislators: Abinanti, Bronz, Harckham, Maisano, Myers, Nonna, Oros, Rogowsky

IN ATTENDANCE: STAFF: C. Crane, J. Sold, K. Delgado, C. Giliberti; GUESTS: A. Neuman, B. Randolph (CEO); M. Nicolas-Brewster, L. Cipollo (Law); Comm'r. A. Sutton (WCDES); Comm'r. T. Belfiore, J. Hodges, M. McGlynn (WCDPS); L. Meyerson (WCDOH); T. Turner (Bedford Schools); D. Minerva (Empress); A. Gavish (FCWC); A. Jaffee Holmes (GNC), E. Weininger (Grassroots Env't. Ed.) [list of other attendees on file]

Legislation and Environment & Energy Committees called to order at 3:45 pm.

Item(s) Discussed: **Proposed Legislation on Vehicle Idling**

Chair Burton introduced the meeting topic and asked Chair Abinanti to provide a summary of the remaining issues requiring resolution. Chair Abinanti noted that the New York State Education Law contemplates local governments' regulation of school bus idling. In addition, in response to query by Leg. Jenkins about the legislation's impacts upon the City of Yonkers, Chair Abinanti stated that the City of Yonkers already has an idling statute, which appears to be stricter than the proposed county legislation.

Chair Abinanti stated that emergency responders have questioned the impact of the legislation upon their services. Chair Abinanti noted a policy statement issued by the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services in 2005 which expressed the bureau's position that idling for non-emergency services must be minimized and excessive idling is not permitted.

Chair Burton invited discussion by Administration officials. Dep. Comm'r. Len Meyerson said that proposed legislation is significant for protecting human health and

the environment. Comm'r. Sutton stated he recognized the importance of reducing vehicle emissions but ambulances contain equipment that requires power and a climate-controlled environment. Comm'r. Belfiore noted that police vehicles may contain radio or communication equipment that must function. Upon discussion by members of the committees, the legislation was revised to exempt police, fire, medical and other emergency vehicles while operating in the scope of their duties. The committee report would be revised to encourage emergency responders to minimize all idling.

Leg. Maisano moved the proposed legislation with revisions for all purposes for both committees, which was seconded by Leg. Oros. Both committees voted to approve the legislation for all purposes (all in favor, both committees).

Upon the motion of Leg. Maisano, seconded by Leg. Bronz, the Legislation Committee adjourned the meeting (all in favor). Chair Abinanti adjourned the Environment & Energy Committee. The meetings adjourned at 4:35 pm.
[audio recording of the meeting is on file]