

**TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

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2016 DEC -9 P 7:28

BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

The 2017 Operating Budget submitted by the County Executive again fails to accomplish the goal of managing the taxpayers' money in the most productive and efficient fashion. The County Executive's proposal is balanced on speculative revenues from an airport alteration that may not come to fruition during the fiscal year, making them potentially illegal to book. The public demands that elected officials explore innovative public-private partnerships that result in additional earnings for the county to provide the short-term services that the taxpayers rely on, but what is offered in this plan is not one of those potential revenues. The County Executive's airport plan is a backroom deal that partially fills a gap now but leaves millions of dollars of future county revenue on the table and does not delineate specifically enough what services would be provided in the forward most years of the arrangement to justify what would be additional tax increases in the future. Additionally, the clandestine nature of the deal does not ensure that the County is getting the most money it can for this valuable asset. An open RFP process allows the County to base its decision to enter into a public-private partnership on what is both the most lucrative and most beneficial use of the airport. This way, taxpayers can be sure that the County is not leaving any dollars on the table.

Democratic members of the Budget & Appropriations committee proposed additions to the 2017 Operating Budget. Among these additions is allotted funding for Title XX day care. This additional money was recommended by the County's independent auditor as a result of the mismanagement of the 2016 allocation for this vital program. The funding ended in September, forcing the program to reduce services and turn away new applicants. Hard working parents who cannot afford licensed and regulated child care, now more expensive than tuition at a public college in 23 states, have been forced to make hard decisions about their child's care without this important resource. We intend that the additional funding will ensure that this shortfall does not happen in 2017 and all families who qualify will have access to the program.

Members of the committee successfully advocated for additional money for fundamental community based service programs. These programs range from providing safe and productive places for at-risk youth to spend time after school to early childhood development. The Community Resource Center in Mamaroneck, an agency that serves as a pillar of the Mamaroneck Community, has provided almost two decades of innovative services to the immigrant and low-income residents. The Mount Vernon Youth Bureau conducts a program that supports generations of young people between the ages of 6 and 21 and their families by engaging the community in safe, high quality programs that promote the physical, emotional and social well-being of young people. These are just a sampling of the programs offer services that provide savings to the County in the long term because of the positive social impact they achieve. Many of these organizations have a ripple effect through local economies that has been clearly demonstrated for years. It is important that county operating and capital dollars go towards programs that maximize every dime of taxpayer money. With that as the guiding principle, we have concern about the \$12.625 million of capital funds requested by the County Executive for an additional ice-skating rink where several others are in close physical proximity. Many members have agreed that investment in infrastructure and other plant assets can provide innovative solutions for revenue problems but are not yet convinced that this is one of them.

Other members of the Committee have advocated for capital dollars to be allocated with the goal of finding new energy and electricity efficiencies through county owned properties. One of these efficiency ideas is to simply convert to LED lighting in all County facilities; an effort that has already commenced at several locations. To that end, members proposed deleting \$3.5 million in utility expenses that could be saved by continuing these efforts.

In order to overcome the well-documented backlog of public works projects, several members of the committee urged the County to add critical staff to the Department of Public Works. These include two Senior Engineers, one associate engineer, one assistant engineer, and a program coordinator. Several Legislators also advocated for \$200,000 for non-recurring, basic road repairs. These come at a time when the infrastructure in Westchester County is visibly ageing and in dire need of repairs. All but the program

coordinator were added back into the budget. These individuals will provide much needed assistance to get these lacking repairs completed while the non-recurring repair add will help provide some of the needed materials. The vitality of the expenses behind these positions stands in strong contrast with the unjustifiable nature of the County Executive's proposal to give over \$600,000 in raises to his staff members and increase his own postage allocation ahead of a re-election year for the County Executive. As a result, members believe the deletion of these non-service driven expenses would offset a much more necessary expenditure. We are pleased that most of these were included in the Budget Committee's final "adds report".

One place we recommend looking for additional revenues is through a modest increase in "greens fees" at the County's public courses. A fee raise of \$4, beginning the "twilight rate" hours earlier to attract golfers in volume, as well as creating a per-player discount to play our public courses in groups of four instead of leaving golf slots open and missing revenue entirely, could potentially add over \$1,000,000 in non-property tax based revenue. Golfers have an opportunity to benefit from these changes as well. The change in twilight times will allow more golfers to get out to play at a discounted rate while it is still light out, potentially offsetting any reduction in golf course attendance caused by the fee increase. With the mismanagement of past budgets, every little bit helps. We request the County Parks Board review this option.

This year's report given to the Budget & Appropriations committee by the independent auditors reiterated concerns that have been raised for the last three years, creating a strong impetus for opposing each of the County Executive's unbalanced budgets. These budgets have been passed by relying on one-shot revenue streams to balance the county's ledger for accounting purposes, but leave a multi-million dollar out-year gap as a result of disingenuous projections and accounting gimmicks. Furthermore, as forecasted by several legislators last year, the 2016 operating budget currently has an \$18,000,000 hole as a result of falling short of sales tax revenues in 2015, compounding missed projections in the years prior. Overall, the County's past budgets have relied on roughly \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000 of one-use tricks,

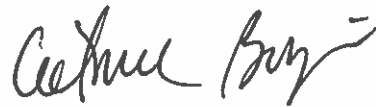
which has left the county with even more cumbersome budget gaps to fill. Fiscally sound municipal budgeting requires the creation and execution of a plan that can balance long-term efficiencies with short-term cash flow requirements.

Unified with many other members of the Board of Legislators, we look forward to an open and honest discussion of innovative public-private partnerships at any of the County owned facilities as a way to create additional non-property-tax-based revenue streams to balance the County's budget.

Successful negotiation with our legislative partners has ensured compromises that make the best choices given a difficult financial situation caused by years of the Administration's fiscal mismanagement. We look forward to asserting an active leadership role in the 2017 year to assure vital services are provided to county residents and long term, recurring revenue sources are identified and utilized.

Dated: December 9, 2016
White Plains, New York

Democratic Members of the Committee on Budget & Appropriations

Handwritten signature of Arthur Boyer in black ink.Handwritten signature of Benjamin Boyer in black ink.

Westchester County
Proposed 2017 Budget Additions Deletions

DEPARTMENT	ORG	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
REVENUE ADDITIONS				0
TOTAL REVENUE ADDITIONS				\$0
EXPENDITURE ADDITIONS				
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS (10)				\$0
				\$0
			BOL TOTAL	\$0
COUNTY EXECUTIVE (11)				
WOMEN				\$0
YOUTH BUREAU				\$0
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT				\$0
			CE TOTAL	\$0
BUDGET (13)				\$0
			BUDGET TOTAL	\$0

Westchester County
Proposed 2017 Budget Additions Deletions

DEPARTMENT	ORG	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
FINANCE (15)				\$0
			FINANCE TOTAL	\$0
PLANNING (19)				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
			PLANNING TOTAL	\$0
SOCIAL SERVICES (22)				
		5690	Youth Shelter Program of Westchester (?)	\$50,000
		5960	Indirect Socail Services (LI Day Care)	\$4,000,000
		5990	Day Care (Title XX)	600,000
				0
				0
				\$0
				\$0
			DSS TOTAL	\$4,650,000
SENIOR SERVICES (24)				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
			SENIOR SERVICES TOTAL	\$0
CONSUMER PROTECTION (25)				
			CONSUMER PROTECTION TOTAL	\$0

Westchester County
Proposed 2017 Budget Additions Deletions

DEPARTMENT	ORG	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
HEALTH (27)				
			HEALTH TOTAL	\$0
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES (38)				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
			PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	\$0
PARKS, RECREATION & CONSERVATION (42)				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
			PARKS TOTAL	\$0
TRANSPORTATION (44)				\$0
				\$0
			TRANSPORTATION TOTAL	\$0

Westchester County
Proposed 2017 Budget Additions Deletions

DEPARTMENT	ORG	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFIT ADDS				
	101 52 1500	1650	Retirement	\$64,569
	101 52 1500	1651	FICA	\$29,710
	101 52 1500	1680	Employee Health Insurance	\$154,557
	101 52 1500	1710	MCTD Mobility Tax	\$1,471
	101 52 1500	1715	Employee Benefits	\$4,968
	101 52 1500	1720	Unemployment Insurance	\$464
			BENEFITS TOTAL	\$255,739
TOTAL EXPENSE ADDITIONS				\$6,198,404
TOTAL ADDITIONS				-\$6,198,404

Westchester County
Proposed 2017 Budget Additions Deletions

DEPARTMENT	ORG	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
REVENUE DELETES				
BUDGET (13)				
	101 13 1000	9289		\$10,050
		TOTAL		\$10,050
SOCIAL SERVICES (22)				
	101 22 1000	9717		\$22,254
		9807		\$22,254
		TOTAL		\$44,508
MENTAL HEALTH (26)				
	101 26 2000	9713		\$17,494
		TOTAL		\$17,494
HEALTH (27)				
	101 27 0010	9706		\$7,499
		TOTAL		\$7,499
LABS AND RESEARCH (31)				
	107 31 0010	9708		\$3,462
		TOTAL		\$3,462
SOLID WASTE COMMISSION (41)				
	101 41 1000	9289		\$7,636
		TOTAL		\$7,636
		TOTAL REVENUE DELETES		\$90,649

Westchester County
Proposed 2017 Budget Additions Deletions

DEPARTMENT	ORG	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
EXPENSE DELETES				
COUNTY EXECUTIVE (11)				
	101 11 0100	1010	Net-Annual Regular	72880
	101 11_0111	3700	Postage Costs	17,000
			TOTAL	89,880
HUMAN RESOURCES (12)				
	101 12 6010	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$7,762
			TOTAL	\$7,762
BUDGET (13)				
	101 13 1000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$30,150
			TOTAL	\$30,150
BOARD OF ELECTIONS (14)				
	101 14 1000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$17,191
			TOTAL	\$17,191
FINANCE				
	101 15 1000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$30,521
			TOTAL	\$30,521
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (16)				
	101 16 6000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$31,352
			TOTAL	\$31,352
ACQUISITION & CONTRACT (17)				
	101 17 1000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$2,986
			TOTAL	\$2,986

Westchester County
Proposed 2017 Budget Additions Deletions

DEPARTMENT	ORG	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
LAW (18)				
	101 18 1000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$106,666
			TOTAL	\$106,666
PLANNING (19)				
	101 19 0100	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$8,471
			TOTAL	\$8,471
EMERGENCY SERVICES (20)				
	101 20 1000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	14,096
			TOTAL	\$14,096
COUNTY CLERK (21)				
	101 21 0300	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$10,856
			TOTAL	\$10,856
SOCIAL SERVICES (22)				
	101 22 1000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$44,508
			TOTAL	\$44,508
CONSUMER PROTECTION (25)				
	101 25 0200	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$3,271
			TOTAL	\$3,271
MENTAL HEALTH (26)				
	101 26 2000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$48,593
			TOTAL	\$48,593
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (27)				
	101 27 0010	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$20,830
			TOTAL	\$20,830

Westchester County
Proposed 2017 Budget Additions Deletions

DEPARTMENT	ORG	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
LABS AND RESEARCH (28)				
	101 28 0010	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$19,232
			TOTAL	\$19,232
CORRECTIONS (35)				
	101 35 1000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$19,249
			TOTAL	\$19,249
TAX COMMISSION (36)				
	101 36 0100	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$3,965
			TOTAL	\$3,965
DISTRICT ATTORNEY (37)				
	101 37 0010	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$10,419
			TOTAL	\$10,419
PUBLIC SAFETY (38)				
	100 38_4000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$191,937
	101 38_4000	1200	Hourly	\$4,200
	101 38_4000	1400	Overtime	\$37,264
	101 38_4000	1490	Holiday Pay	\$18,208
	101 38	3200	Utilities	\$5,015
			TOTAL	\$306,624
PROBATION (39)				
	101 39 1000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$8,774
			TOTAL	\$8,774

Westchester County
Proposed 2017 Budget Additions Deletions

DEPARTMENT	ORG	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (40)				
	101 40 1000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$6,220
			TOTAL	\$6,220
SOLID WASTE COMMISSION (41)				
	101 41 1000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$7,636
			TOTAL	\$7,636
PARKS AND RECREATION (42)				
	101 42 1100	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$15,032
	101 42	3200	Utilities	579,615
			TOTAL	\$594,647
TRANSPORTATION (44)				
	101 44	3200	Utilities	264,425
			TOTAL	\$264,425
PUBLIC WORKS (46)				
	101 46 1000	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$15,249
	101 46	3200	Utilities	2,539,135
			TOTAL	\$2,554,384
MISCELLANEOUS BUDGETS (52)				
	101 52 2067	1010	Net-Annual Regular	\$3,414
			TOTAL	\$3,414
TOTAL EXPENSE DELETES				\$4,266,122
TOTAL DELETES				\$4,175,473

