

Ulster County Legislature

Mary Wawro, Legislator District No. 1
Chairman: Social Services &
Public Safety Advisory Committees



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RELEASES PUBLIC SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

(Kingston, NY) – As part of the final action, the Public Safety Advisory Committee came together one last time to release their final report and recommendations as required in their enabling Resolution #32 of 2013. The members of the Committee included as their Chairman, Legislator Mary Wawro; Legislators Carl Belfiglio, Thomas (T.J.) Briggs, and Terry Bernardo; Town of Rochester Supervisor and Chairman of the Association of Towns and Village, Carl Chipman; Undersheriff and Vice President of the Association of Ulster County Police Chiefs, Frank Faluotico; Ulster County Resident Thomas Kadgen; Owner of Abundant Life Chiropractic Care, Dr. Dale Kimberlin; American Red Cross Volunteer Diane Mueller; and Executive Director of the Villa Veritas Foundation, Barbara Swift.

Committee Chair Mary Wawro stated, “This dedicated group came to each meeting with open minds and a great deal of knowledge to share. We learned from each other as much as we learned from the 30 experts who presented to us. Together, through dialogue, we created and supported recommendations and suggestions that, if implemented, would most definitely continue to improve Ulster County’s Public Safety.”

After 13 meetings, over 250 man hours, and 9 months of testimony, the Committee compiled so much information about the resources, needs, and barriers affecting Ulster County, the summary report totaled 400 pages.

Legislator Carl Belfiglio stated, “The Ulster County Legislature, under the direction of the Public Safety Advisory Committee, actually came up with a common sense approach to public safety. There were many speakers deliberating in our Committee over many weeks. From mental health and law enforcement professionals, school officials, the general public, drug and alcohol abuse experts, and psychiatrists, we ran the gamut of knowledgeable people in Ulster County.”

Legislator Thomas J. Briggs stated, “This final report is an indication of when people come together for a common goal, are willing to work hard and spend the time that it takes to come up with a good product. This is a beginning and we, as Legislators, people in the community, schools, and Towns and Villages, must take this information and move forward with it. I think Ulster County will be a better place because of it.”

Town of Rochester Supervisor Carl Chipman stated, “This has probably been one of the most rewarding experiences, I have had serving on committees. What we did, with our speakers, was to really get to the guts of the issues. This wasn’t just done at a County level, we looked at things on a regional level, a County level, individual municipalities, as well as school districts. There are recommendations for all. I feel if these recommendations are acted on, it will make a tremendous difference in making our community a safer place to live, work, or play.”

Undersheriff Frank Falutico highlighted, “The report does look rather large, it is 400 pages and every page is worth reading by School Board Members, School Superintendents, people who run public establishments. It was a great exchange of information, exchange of ideas, explanations, hearing each other’s sides of things and coming to a common sense of inclusion of how we can fix it, make it better, and make our community better.”

The Committee respectfully submitted its final report to the Legislature with the understanding that it is and should be a work in progress. With ever evolving communities, the Committee felt this comprehensive look into public safety should be undertaken again in the future. They urge the Legislature to ensure future opportunities for other concerned and dedicated citizens to meet in these types of forums for the betterment of Ulster County.

While it was understood by the Committee, that for sake of time, the study is incomplete, as not every agency or service that impacts the public safety topics specified in the Resolution could be heard. They encourage individuals and other agencies that have input on the Committee’s report to contact the Committee members listed on page 82 or the Clerk of the Legislature.

Committee members have a copy of the full report and it will be available online at the websites of the Ulster County Legislature and the Ulster County Sheriff.

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(Reports Available at the website of the County Legislature –
http://co.ulster.ny.us/legislature/legislative_press/Final%20Report.pdf)