

**Establishing A Policy To Prohibit The Same Entity From Performing Both Ulster County's Annual Financial Audit And Annual Budget Analysis**

Referred to: The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gerentine and Legislators Archer, Bartels, Lopez, James Maloney, Joseph Maloney, and Petit)

Legislator Tracey A. Bartels and Legislators Archer, Heppner, Petit, and Rodriguez offer the following:

WHEREAS, both the Annual Financial Audit and Budget Analysis are integral to the operation and financial position of Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, both of these assessments create important opinions, recommendations and facts relied upon both internally by Ulster County as well as outside parties; and

WHEREAS, the entity that performs the Annual Financial Audit is selected by the Audit Committee as required by Section C 11.1 of the Ulster County Charter; and

WHEREAS, the entity that performs the Budget Analysis is selected by the Ulster County Legislature; and

WHEREAS, accounting best practices dictate that the same entity that reviews the budget prior to adoption by the Legislature should not be the same entity which performs the year-end independent audit; and

WHEREAS, requiring that these two assessments be done by separate entities ensures integrity in the process, promotes government transparency and avoids any appearance of impropriety or potential conflict of interest; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County always endeavors to act in the highest possible ethical manner, as evidenced by the Ulster County Ethics and Disclosure Law; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby prohibits the same entity from performing both the Annual Financial Audit and the Budget Analysis for the same fiscal year end,

and move its adoption.

