



County of Rockland

Office of County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef

NEWS RELEASE

Date: January 26, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: CJ Miller
(845) 638-5645

County saves \$3.75 million with Early Retirement Incentive ***Vanderhoef says Rockland met goal of reducing workforce and County payroll***

New City, NY – County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef announced that 112 government employees took advantage of the County's recent early retirement incentive, saving taxpayers \$3.75 million this year.

"We have pledged that County government would do more with less and we are living up to that commitment," Vanderhoef said. "We are very pleased to have met our salary savings goal for 2009 and are able to pass significant savings along to our taxpayers, who need a break during these tough economic times."

At peak staffing levels in 2001, 3,064 people worked for the County of Rockland. The County now employs 2,732 people, an 11-percent reduction in the government's workforce in the past eight years, Vanderhoef said. With the help of the Rockland County Legislature and Vanderhoef's early retirement incentive, the County's payroll has been reduced by 427 positions since 2001, with 332 jobs abolished and 95 left in reserve.

Of the recent retirees, 96 worked for the County of Rockland and Rockland Community College employed 16. Approximately 20-percent of the 600 workers eligible for the early retirement program took advantage of the incentive, meeting the County's savings target, said H. Chris Kopf, Rockland's director of Finance and Budget.

While the retirements have affected some government services, Vanderhoef said he had "a great deal of faith" in department heads and County workers to do their best to meet the demands of the people during the recession that Rockland and the entire nation are facing.

"This administration is committed to going the extra mile for the people we serve. Everyone in County government is dedicated to what they do and will step up to fill the gaps," Vanderhoef said. "This economic downturn leaves us with no other choice."

Vanderhoef said he plans a reorganization of several departments, which he and his staff will review with the County Legislature.

The County was able to realize a net savings of \$3.75 million in 2009 after a total of \$5.7 million was paid out to retirees in incentives and accumulated vacation time and applicable state aid was deducted, Kopf said.

###

