Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Legislator Day to Initiate Discussion on Oversight of Tax Dollars Conveyed to Contract Agencies

New City, NY (January 4, 2010) – Rockland County Legislator Ed Day has requested a legislative committee discussion concerning the oversight by the Office of the County Executive of the use of taxpayer money awarded to contract agencies. Day requested the discussion in light of recent concerns surrounding operational inconsistencies by a county-funded not-for-profit agency.

"Taxpayers need to be assured that their tax dollars are spent wisely and in conformity with the contract with the county," said Legislator Day, "We need to make sure that proper controls are in place to minimize the potential for misuse of funds. It is a matter of accountability on our end and credibility on the part of the agency."

Contract agencies provide necessary services to county residents such as housing and shelter, medical and mental health services, and elder and childcare services. In order to be considered for county funds, agencies must be registered as a not-for-profit or charitable organization (501c3) by the Internal Revenue Service and submit to the county a lengthy application that details the contracted services, how money will be spent, a detailed budget, proof of insurance and 501c3 status. Day said, "The purpose of utilizing contract agencies is to augment the mission of local government, and do so efficiently, effectively, and in a manner that gets critical services to our residents in need while respecting taxpayer funding."

Day added, "There should be a clear contract for the service to be provided, accountability, and verifiable checks in place, with absolute and timely adherence by all county-funded contract agencies. This should be the standard and safeguard before any county funds are released, and this effort should be complemented by an effective follow up measurement process of these agencies that ensures compliance."

At this time, no date has been set for the discussion.

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