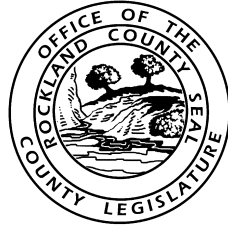


# Press



# Release

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## For Immediate Release

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## **Legislators Wolfe and Moroney Introduce Resolution to Ensure “Truth in Budgeting” for Salaries**

New City, NY (May 18, 2010) - Rockland County Legislators Alden H. Wolfe and Patrick Moroney have introduced a resolution which would ensure that salaries for elected officials and those appointed for a fixed term conform to the adopted budget. The measure would require that any resolution or local law fixing the salaries of elected officials and those appointed for a fixed term be accompanied by a certification that the proposed salary does not exceed the figure appropriated in the budget. Salary reductions would be permitted.

Under current New York State law, proposed salaries for County Legislators must be stated in the notice of public hearing for the County's budget. This requirement allows the public ample and appropriate time to comment on the proposal and to ensure that the funding will be in the adopted budget. This requirement does not apply to other County-level elected officials, such as the County Executive, District Attorney, County Clerk, and the Sheriff, or to County officials appointed for a fixed term, such as certain Commissioners or department heads. Salaries for these positions may only be increased by the adoption of a local law, if not done through the Budget process. Currently, there is no requirement that the final salary for these positions be tied to the salary adopted in the annual County budget.

“Adoption of this proposal would bring transparency to the process of setting salaries for these positions,” said Legislator Wolfe. “The complex process of developing a budget becomes less credible when we are asked to allocate additional funds for fixed term position salaries shortly after the process is completed. The public will be better served by knowing that our adopted budget is more than just a guideline when it comes to salaries.”

Legislators Wolfe and Moroney partnered to introduce this bi-partisan legislation after concerns were raised in December regarding the process of establishing salaries for these positions.

“The amendment to the law is intended to ensure a manageable annual budget,” said Legislator Moroney, “one that won’t present any surprises – in that we should be looking at and budgeting these salaries during the regular process. We should not find ourselves in a predicament right after adopting a budget, of funding positions or salaries that we did not budget during the regular process.”

The proposal will be referred to the Legislature’s Rules Committee for review and discussion.

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