

RESOLUTION NO. 2016029

RE: REQUESTING THAT DUTCHESS COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL EVALUATE COST AND FEASIBILITY OF PROVEN WAYS TO SAFELY LOWER INCARCERATION RATE IN DUTCHESS COUNTY JAIL

Legislators TYNER, AMPARO, RIESER, and BRENDLI offer the following and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, violent crime in Dutchess County has decreased over twenty percent over the last five years, and one-fourth of the current Dutchess County Jail "pods" are empty, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has not yet followed the Bronx example and expedited processing of inmates in our jail, 80% of which still haven't gone to trial yet here in our county, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has not yet seen how much our jail population can be cut by diverting mentally ill from arrest/jail after our new Crisis Intervention Training and Crisis Stabilization Center initiatives have been fully implemented; Miami and San Antonio saw huge cuts in incarceration from this (Miami at 40 percent), and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has not yet followed the Tompkins County/Bronx/Brooklyn/Manhattan example of a bail loan fund for some accused of nonviolent misdemeanors, proven to save \$400,000 annually on incarceration costs in a county with a population less than a third of Dutchess County, and

WHEREAS, homeless Dutchess County residents repeatedly tried to commit minor crimes to purposely be arrested and jailed for "three hots and a cot", and

WHEREAS, African-Americans make up 12 percent of Dutchess County's population but 44 percent of the population of the Dutchess County Jail; whites use drugs just as much as blacks but blacks are arrested six times more than whites for drug "crimes"; no effort has been made here in Dutchess County to address the disproportionate number of people of color incarcerated, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has not yet followed example of Gloucester, Cooperstown, and many other communities across the country who have lowered jail/prison populations by guaranteeing treatment instead of incarceration for heroin addicts, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has not yet followed the example of the Brooklyn District Attorney working collaboratively with the Drew House to make sure that, if possible, women who have been arrested can have their children living with them in an alternative, rehabilitative setting, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has not yet made a commitment to divert nonviolent drug offenders from arrest and incarceration, even for possession of minor amounts of marijuana, though this has successfully been accomplished in New York City, along with decriminalizing other minor nonviolent misdemeanor offenses (that still carry a civil fee/fine/penalty there), and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has not yet worked with state and city governments to restore the Drug Court to the City of Poughkeepsie, that for many years successfully ensured treatment instead of incarceration for nonviolent drug offenders, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has not yet initiated a Veterans Treatment Court to help deserving veterans avoid incarceration as in Columbia, Orange, Nassau, Suffolk, Albany, Rensselaer, Sullivan, and Monroe counties and in Westchester, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has not yet initiated a Parole Re-Entry Court similar to the successful one already up and running in Harlem, and Dutchess County has also failed to invest enough resources in a truly comprehensive, cost-saving, recidivism-cutting system of re-entry similar to Brooklyn's ComAlert system, recognized by both Harvard and The New York Times for its effectiveness in making sure those getting out of jail don't get locked up again, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has not followed the example of Brooklyn, Bronx, Seattle, San Bernardino, and many other municipalities who have enacted Mental Health Courts to divert nonviolent mentally ill from arrest and incarceration, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has not yet followed the innovative, cost-saving example of Genesee County and initiated a comprehensive restorative justice program to help some suitable, qualifying people who have been arrested and their victims as well, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro promised in May 2014 to fully fund youth programs locally, but county funding has yet to be restored for the incredibly successful Youth Bureau Project Return program for at-risk teens, Big Brothers Big Sisters (or a similar program), or the Green Teen Program in Poughkeepsie through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has not sent a strong message to our state and federal governments, as the New York Times just editorialized recently, to follow the smart, safe, cost-saving Second Chance Society reforms to our criminal justice system already proven successful in Connecticut, as the bipartisan #Cut50, Coalition for Public Safety and the conservative Right on Crime coalition have called for, to cut the number of incarcerated across the country by fifty percent over the next ten years, and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Legislature requests that the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council immediately evaluate the cost and feasibility of these sensible, proven reforms to safely cut our jail population here in Dutchess County, and report back on them to the Dutchess County Legislature as soon as possible, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Dutchess County Executive and Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council.

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 8th day of February 2016, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 8th day of February 2016.

CAROLYN MORRIS, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

re: **CJC ANALYSIS OF BEST PRACTICES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**

No Fiscal Impact

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**APPROPRIATION RESOLUTIONS**

Total Current Year Cost \$ 0

Total Current Year Revenue and Source: \$ 0

Source of County Funds (check one): Existing Appropriations  
Contingency  
Transfer of Existing Appropriations  
Additional Appropriations  
Other (explain)

Identify Line Item (s):  
Related Expenses:

Nature of Expenses:

Anticipated Savings to County: [ ... might well avoid "need" for \$185 M jail! ]

Net county Cost (this year): \$ 0

(over five years): \$ 0

Additional Comments:

It would not be difficult or expensive to do this research - merely to reach out to other municipalities across NYS who have initiated state-of-the-art reforms in criminal justice not yet made reality here in Dutchess County.

## Morris, Carolyn

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**From:** Miranda D. Parry [mirandadparry@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 10:33 AM  
**To:** County Legislators  
**Subject:** Re: Looking for alternatives to jail expansion

The voters and taxpayers would so much appreciate it if you would all at least consider possible ways to avoid this expensive huge building project. Please at least examine every possible alternative. Thats how good decisions get made, pushing it through without due consideration makes zero sense.

Thank you,  
Miranda Parry  
Rhinebeck

On Fri, Jan 15, 2016 at 10:30 AM, Miranda D. Parry <[mirandadparry@gmail.com](mailto:mirandadparry@gmail.com)> wrote:

The voters and taxpayers would so much appreciate it if you would all at least consider possible ways to avoid this expensive huge building project. Please at least examine every possible alternative. Thats how good decisions get made, pushing it through without due consideration makes zero sense.

Thank you,  
Miranda Parry  
Rhinebeck

**Morris, Carolyn**

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**From:** Joshua Farrell [jftoaster@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016 10:58 PM  
**To:** County Legislators  
**Subject:** Alternatives To Jail Resolution

I urge all county legislators to support the resolution proposed by legislator Joel Tyner for alternatives to the massively expensive and counter productive construction of a new jail in Dutchess county. Thank you.

Josh Farrell  
Fishkill

Sent from my iPhone

## Morris, Carolyn

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**From:** Laura Murphy [lauramurphy38w69@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 3:56 PM  
**To:** County Legislators  
**Subject:** Please support the Tyner/Rieser Resolution regarding alternatives to jail expansion

Dear County Legislators:

I am writing to urge you to support the following resolution co-sponsored by Legislators Joel Tyner and Kari Rieser.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Laura Murphy  
Poughkeepsie NY

**"REQUESTING THAT DUTCHESS COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL EVALUATE COST AND FEASIBILITY OF PROVEN WAYS TO SAFELY LOWER INCARCERATION RATE IN DUTCHESS COUNTY JAIL**

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