

RESOLUTION NO. 2016061

RE: FOR INNOVATIVE ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION WITH THE DEMOCRACY COLLABORATIVE ASSISTING THE DUTCHESS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN DUTCHESS COUNTY AND POUGHKEEPSIE

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

WHEREAS, Dutchess County recently added a new Community Development Coordinator position with and focus being revitalization efforts in the City of Poughkeepsie, in recognition of the fact that in many ways Dutchess County's future and success are tied inextricably to economic development efforts in the City of Poughkeepsie, and

WHEREAS, in contrast to luring companies from elsewhere, building community wealth is about developing under-utilized local assets of many kinds: social networks, the built environment, cultural riches, local ecology, anchor institutions, and doing so in a way that the wealth stays local and is broadly shared; developing assets is different from delivering social services; it's a shift from reducing poverty to building wealth; when families possess assets: skills, social networks, a home, savings, an ownership stake in a business, they are better able to withstand shocks like unemployment or illness; they can plan for their future, send a child to college, and feel secure in retirement; a job may start or stop; assets yield greater stability and security, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County needs something like the Chicagoland Manufacturing Renaissance Council, a regional strategic collaborative started in 2005 to help rebuild Chicago's manufacturing base, and connect to those needing jobs; the collaborative engages many partners, including the City of Chicago, community leaders, labor, education, and business and manufacturing groups; its signature programs include: the Austin Polytechnical Academy, a partnership among Chicago Public Schools, local manufacturers, the Chicago Teachers' Union, and the Austin community that trains students; ManufacturingWorks, an employer-demand-driven workforce center endorsed by the City of Chicago, which has resulted in an estimated additional annual payroll of \$25 million and 828 new manufacturing jobs; and the Austin Manufacturing Innovation District, started with a \$1.25 million grant in 2012 from the City of Chicago, which connects training, research, development, and hiring activities in Chicago's Austin neighborhood; this model is already being replicated successfully in San Francisco and the Bay area, with interest growing in New York City, Newark, Detroit, and Baltimore, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County is also two years behind the City and County of Chicago's launching of Chicago Anchors for a Strong Economy (CASE) to anchor institutions to local suppliers; the initiative collects data on anchor purchasing needs and then coordinates opportunities to increase local procurement; at the same time, CASE, in partnership with merchant bank Next Street, works with local businesses to help them scale operations to meet these needs; CASE aimed to work with 100 local businesses in its first year, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County should follow Cleveland's example, where officials there became disillusioned by traditional subsidy-driven approaches to economic development; the jobs often disappeared as companies moved away from the city, even after taking significant public money to support their operations; approaches like the Evergreen Cooperatives, which focus on anchored local wealth have proven quite effective there, built on LOIS (Locally Owned Import Substitution) strategies endorsed by the Northern Dutchess Alliance Blueprint for Economic Development report from 2008, creating worker-owned cooperatives (solar installation firm, green laundry service, and urban hydroponics greenhouse), after first pulling together Cleveland's large employers and institutions (colleges, universities, hospitals, and government), and

WHEREAS, here in New York State, Rochester in Monroe County is tackling the challenges of deindustrialization, poverty, and disinvestment with a comprehensive, place-based, and collaborative program of inclusive development, including a new initiative to kickstart the creation of worker cooperatives building off of the procurement opportunities presented by large area anchor institutions, in Buffalo, the city's small business development center is partnering with a local nonprofit, People United for Sustainable Housing, to ramp up worker-owned cooperative development, and New York City is investing over a million dollars to facilitate the development of worker-owned cooperatives, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County sorely needs something like New Orleans Works (NOW), a workforce initiative led by the Greater New Orleans Foundation and supported by the City; it is also a local site of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions, which has sites in more than 30 cities, each seeking to help low-wage workers advance through employer engagement; NOW seeks to build long-lasting partnerships between employers, trainers, and workers to create a jobs pipeline that helps low-skilled workers advance and helps businesses compete; the initiative focuses on the health care sector, with partners that include Ochsner Health System, the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Healthcare System, and Delgado Community College; they together train workers for medical assistant positions, and provide wrap-around services to help participants succeed; in 2014, NOW's work resulted in pay raises for more than 400 Ochsner medical assistants, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County needs an Office of Community Wealth Building; last year Richmond, Virginia, established the nation's first Office of Community Wealth Building; a city newsletter explained how they understood the term, "intended to show we are taking a positive approach building on assets, resources, and potential already present, the term 'community' indicating we care not just about a few but about everyone; 'building wealth' to be will allow families and households to escape poverty not just for a few months or years but in a lasting way; there's more to wealth than money; we are concerned with the development of all forms of capital in a community-- physical, human, social, and more," and

WHEREAS, similarly three years ago Philadelphia created an Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity with the understanding that moving the needle on poverty was integral to the city's success, to align anti-poverty resources with wealth-building opportunities such as food access and asset building, and began implementation of the Shared Prosperity Philadelphia Plan, a common agenda to "to knock down systems-level barriers to opportunity," which had left 28 percent of the population in poverty; the poverty rate has already declined there, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County needs involvement from local colleges along the lines of Boston's Northeastern University, who as part of a large-scale real estate development initiative, agreed to seed a \$2.5 million local economic development revolving loan fund; the purpose of the fund is to enable local businesses to expand, building their capacity to do business with the university; this initiative, finalized in a contractually binding community benefits agreement, was shepherded by a City Council member, who worked closely with the university and the community; in the CBA, Northeastern committed to purchasing 15 percent of its goods and services from Boston-based, minority-and women-owned businesses, and

WHEREAS, such innovative, proven-viable, bottom-up, economic development strategies were recently on display this January at a Democracy Collaborative/CUNY School of Law "Building Community Wealth" forum with participation from municipal leaders from Rochester, Cleveland, Madison, St. Paul, New York City, and the New York State Legislature, and

WHEREAS, Newark, New Jersey is emphasizing the need for bottom-up reconstruction of economic opportunity in the city's hardest hit neighborhoods and the strategic role that large nonprofit anchor institutions can and should play in this process; since these nonprofit universities and hospitals do not pay many taxes, they have an obligation to the public to be at the table as a part of coordinated and collaborative efforts to create good local jobs, and

WHEREAS, Madison, Wisconsin has committed five million dollars to help start worker-owned cooperatives over the next five years; New York City has committed over a million dollars towards the same purpose, underscoring the importance of an alternative framework that reorients public resources towards meeting key human needs, not towards the requirements of private wealth accumulation, requiring a real break with some of the received wisdom of "chasing smokestack" traditional economic development, and

WHEREAS, locally and across our nation, a few enjoy rising affluence while too many continue to struggle to get by; this situation is created in part by the practices of traditional economic development; current trends threaten to worsen, unless we can answer the design challenge before us; now more than ever we need to create an economy, beginning at the local level, that builds the wealth and prosperity of everyone, and

WHEREAS, now is the time for economic development professionals and local government here in Dutchess County to work in partnership with foundations, anchor institutions, unions, community organizations, progressive business networks, workers, and community residents to create a systems approach for an inclusive, sustainable economy where all can thrive, our efforts being place-based, fed by the power of anchor institutions, and built on locally rooted and broadly held ownership, to build true community wealth, and

WHEREAS, too often in economic development, we look mostly at data; we understand the educational attainment of a local workforce; we focus on buildable space; we consider connectivity to transit systems; we measure exports or count square feet of green space, but people and communities are often only referenced as units of measure, or as inputs to make businesses and economies thrive; too often this type of thinking has led to increasing disparities in wealth and prosperity; it has led to certain neighborhoods and populations thriving, as others remain in the shadows, struggling; our frameworks seem to miss this; economic development operates on an implicit assumption that everyone benefits from a city's prosperity and economic growth, but that's a sad fallacy, and

WHEREAS, there are fallacies in the traditional approaches of economic development, like the emphasis on strong downtown development and vibrant commercial district and the belief that big business drives employment and economic growth; these are the very approaches that are failing to reach many of the communities most in need of economic opportunity, but there are communities leading the way to a new paradigm of economic development; these communities are putting people first and pushing equity, inclusion, and sustainability to the fore; they're creating land trusts to ensure equitable development without displacement, and

WHEREAS, innovative counties across the U.S. are creating jobs and wealth through ownership models like worker-owned cooperatives, where the notion of maximizing shareholder value has been replaced with a commitment to workers and often the environment; they're also looking to anchor institutions as sources of local jobs, and as economic engines that can invest in local businesses and direct purchasing to businesses owned by people of color, women, and immigrants, and

WHEREAS, this new approach to economic development puts people and community first, and focuses on creating broadly held wealth; the Democracy Collaborative has coined the term "community wealth building" to describe this approach to systems-level change to create a more inclusive economy; at this time of growing inequality, it's time for people-focused economic development that leads to true community wealth building, and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Legislature requests that the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development work with the Democracy Collaborative and Local Progress, the National Municipal Policy Network, to evaluate the cost and feasibility of implementing such innovative economic development strategies for Dutchess County and the City of Poughkeepsie, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Dutchess County Executive, Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development, and the Mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie.

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 14th day of March 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 14th day of March 2016.

CAROLYN MORRIS, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

WORK WITH DEMOCRACY COLLABORATIVE: PLANNING DEPT.

EVALUATE COST + FEASIBILITY

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): 0
Related Expenses: 0

Nature of Expenses: 0

Anticipated Savings to County: savings from economic rebound; less welfare; unemployment; more productive taxpayers
Net county Cost (this year): \$
(over five years): \$

Additional comments:

Rochester, NYC, Buffalo, Cleveland, municipalities all over prove this possible.