

TOWN/CITY SAMPLE LETTER

September 4, 2012

Honorable Supervisor XXXX
Town/City of XXXX
XXX
XXX
XXX, NY XXXXX

Dear Supervisor XXX:

With the economy continuing to stagnate and outlook for growth remaining uncertain, governments at every level are facing multi-year challenges that require a multi-year approach. I believe government must be “right-sized” for the conditions we face right now. Expectations must be reset if we are to be sustainable for the future.

As I shared at our recent meeting at Marist College, Dutchess County Government faced an initial budget gap of nearly \$40 million for 2013. We are confronting the challenge of that massive gap with a wide range of cost containments, consolidations, and workforce realignment. Yet, there will still be painful decisions that must be part of our 2013 county budget including reductions to programs and services and position layoffs.

Across New York State, many counties are facing similar tough decisions and are considering options that include full chargeback of election costs to local governments, chargeback for residents who attend SUNY community colleges outside their own county, even the complete elimination of county sales tax shared with local governments. These are not options I wish to consider. However, we cannot entirely buffer our partners in local government from the decisions we must make.

As I discussed with you, I am proposing changing the current sales tax sharing arrangement the county currently provides to municipalities – capping the amount of sales tax to be distributed to local cities, towns and villages at \$25 million in order to preserve the services we provide to our mutual constituents. We will offset some of the impact of the sales tax change through the elimination of the shared election charges and establishment of a new \$1 million competitive grant program meant to

incentivize consolidation and improved efficiency ideas that you may be considering. Additionally, I take seriously our obligation to transform the way government at all levels functions and focus on clear objectives to consolidate government, enhance service delivery and reduce costs for our shared taxpayers. To that end, we also will pursue with you, the following:

- Sales Tax Distribution Study Group to evaluate a schedule for future distribution fairness
- Health Insurance Consortium to consider a countywide program for county/town/city/village public employee health insurance
- Worker's Compensation Analysis to consider a countywide consortium
- Public Transportation Strategic Plan & DIAL-A-RIDE rate review to improve use and deployment
- Law Enforcement Summit & Collaboration Study to analyze current law enforcement coverage, gaps in service delivery and proposals to enhance public protection and maximize cost effectiveness
- Dutchess County Municipal FAST Team to provide external analysis and support to municipalities considering costs saving ideas and improved efficiencies in service deliveries

Understanding the challenges we all face, I was grateful for the support I received from mayors and supervisors about these proposed changes. It is heartening to know that, as elected leaders, we realize that we are in this together and it is together we will get through these challenging times.

Below, please find the breakdown of how the changes to the sales tax arrangement and the elimination of the election costs is anticipated to impact the Town of XXX based on current projections. Please note these numbers are not final, but can be used as a guideline for you as you make your own budget decisions.

Town of XXXX sales tax share estimates and elections cost savings:

Projected Sales Tax Distribution for 2012:	\$
Projected Sales Tax Distribution for 2013 based on cap:	\$
Difference between 2012 and 2013 projection:	\$
County assumption of 50% BOE Costs Due for 2011/2012:	\$
Projected net impact for 2012 from sales tax and BOE changes:	\$

Additional future savings:

County assumption of 100% BOE costs for 2013:	\$
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Attached you will find a letter agreement for the payment of 2011 and 2012 election charges. Please review and return as soon as possible.

We greatly value the partnerships we have with local governments. Together, we are able to provide many programs and services to our mutual constituents that add to the quality of life that people value in Dutchess County. Whether it is parks, GIS services, law enforcement, transportation or social

services, our residents benefit from our strong working partnerships. My goal is to enhance these partnerships and seek additional ways we can serve our residents in a more streamlined approach that answers the public call to end the duplication and redundancy of services and provides a more efficient model.

I look forward to the continued strengthening of our working relationship to best serve the residents of the Town of XXX and Dutchess County.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Marcus J. Molinaro
County Executive

Cc: Honorable Legislator XXX

VILLAGE LETTER SAMPLE

September 4, 2012

Honorable Mayor XXXX
Village of XXXXX
XXXX
XXXX, NY XXXX

Dear Mayor XXXX:

With the economy continuing to stagnate and outlook for growth remaining uncertain, governments at every level are facing multi-year challenges that require a multi-year approach. I believe government must be “right-sized” for the conditions we face right now. Expectations must be reset if we are to be sustainable for the future.

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- Dutchess County Municipal FAST Team to provide external analysis and support to municipalities considering costs saving ideas and improved efficiencies in service deliveries

Understanding the challenges we all face, I was grateful for the support I received from mayors and supervisors about these proposed changes. It is heartening to know that, as elected leaders, we realize that we are in this together and it is together we will get through these challenging times.

Below, please find the breakdown of how the changes to the sales tax arrangement are anticipated to impact the Village of XXXX based on current projections. Please note these numbers are not final, but can be used as a guideline for you as you make your own budget decisions.

Village of XXX sales tax share estimates:

Projected Sales Tax Distribution for 2012:

Projected Sales Tax Distribution for 2013 based on cap:

Difference between 2012 and 2013 projection:

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I look forward to the continued strengthening of our working relationship to best serve the residents of the Village of XXXX and Dutchess County.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Marcus J. Molinaro
County Executive