

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Thursday, March 5, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Committee Chair Alexander called the committee to order at 5:35 p.m.

PRESENT: 11            ALEXANDER, DRAGO, VALDÉS SMITH, ATKINS, MUNN,  
POLASEK, METZGER, ARNOFF, KEARNEY, RHODES, ROLISON

ABSENT: 1            FAUST

PRESENT/LATE: 0

QUORUM PRESENT

Committee Chair Alexander spoke to the Committee about the state of EMS in Dutchess County.

**Presentations and Reports**

Presentation by Commissioner Beale on Emergency Medical Systems

**Privilege of the Floor with respect to printed agenda items**

Lea Akins of Poughkeepsie spoke in favor the Resolution opposing the proposed detention facility in Chester and her experience as the daughter of an immigrant and granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor.

Nancy Keaney of Staatsburg spoke in favor of the Resolution opposing the proposed detention facility in Chester.

Valerie Carlile of LaGrange spoke in favor of the Resolution opposing the proposed detention facility in Chester.

Heidi Tucci of Union Vale spoke in favor of the Resolution opposing the proposed detention facility in Chester.

**Resolutions considered out of numerical order will be placed in numerical order for fluidity**

**2026025** BOND RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 9, 2026. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,086,360 SERIAL BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, NEW

YORK. TO PAY PART OF THE COST OF THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A 911 EMERGENCY CALL RESPONSE SYSTEM, FOR SAID COUNTY, AND ACCEPTANCE OF A NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FOR SAID CALL RESPONSE SYSTEM

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: None.

The Public Safety Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution.

**2026030** OPPOSING THE PROPOSED FEDERAL IMMIGRATION DETENTION FACILITY IN THE TOWN OF CHESTER, ORANGE COUNTY, DUE TO SERIOUS CONCERNS REGARDING DUE PROCESS, THE RULE OF LAW, LACK OF TRANSPARENCY, AND UNDETERMINED FISCAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS AND REAFFIRMING DUTCHESS COUNTY AS A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR ALL

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: Legislator Drago spoke in favor of the Resolution and thanked members of the public for coming to speak on the issue.

Legislator Kearney spoke in favor of the Resolution.

Legislator Shah requested to be acknowledged, spoke in agreement with a public statement by County Executive Serino opposing the proposed detention facility in Chester, and further spoke in favor of the Resolution, highlighting cases of Dutchess County residents who were abiding by legal processes but have been detained.

Majority Leader Atkins spoke in favor of the Resolution, highlighting his professional experience as a social worker working with children and families and his understanding of how families are affected by federal immigration policies.

Legislator Kaul requested to be acknowledged and spoke in favor of the Resolution.

A roll call vote was called:

AYES: 11                   ALEXANDER, DRAGO, VALDÉS SMITH,  
ATKINS, MUNN, POLASEK, METZGER, ARNOFF, KEARNEY,  
RHODES, ROLISON

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1            FAUST

The Public Safety Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution.

There being no further business, Committee Chair Alexander adjourned the Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m.