#### Resolution No. 229 June 16, 2020

# Urging The Ulster County Sheriff To Implement A Policy Requiring All New Inmates At The Ulster County Jail Be Tested For COVID-19

Referred to: The Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee (Chairwoman Walter and Legislators Fabiano, Haynes, Heppner, and Parete)

Vice-Chairwoman of the Legislature, Tracey A. Bartels, and Legislators Archer, Cahill, Criswell, Delaune, Gavaris, Greene, Heppner, and Walter offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature hereby finds that the COVID-19 pandemic poses a threat to the health and safety of the employees and inmates of the Ulster County Jail; and

WHEREAS, a recent report released by the Federal Bureau of Prisons sets forth that out of 2,700 tests of inmates nationwide, 2,000 inmates tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, according to the Marshall Project, as of May 20, at least 29,251 people in prison had tested positive for the illness, a 19 percent increase from the week before; and

WHEREAS, the highest number of COVID-19 cases tied to one location in the United States is a state prison in central Ohio; and

WHEREAS, prisons and jails are incubators and amplifiers of infectious disease and as such are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, putting both inmates and employees at risk; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature finds that the testing of all new inmates of the Ulster County Jail will promote the health and safety of County employees and inmates; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Sheriff has taken significant and proactive measures to protect those residing and working in the facility; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature urges the Ulster County Sheriff to implement a policy mandating that all new inmates of the Ulster County Jail be tested for the COVID-19 virus during their intake and processing into the Jail; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature further urges the Ulster County Sheriff to implement a policy requiring regular testing of all employees working at the Ulster County Jail,

### - Page 2 -

### Resolution No. 229 June 16, 2020

## Urging The Ulster County Sheriff To Implement A Policy Requiring All New Inmates At The Ulster County Jail Be Tested For COVID-19

and move its adoption.

#### ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 14 NOES: 9

(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Haynes, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)

Passed Committee: Law Enforcement and Public Safety on June 3, 2020

FINANCIAL IMPACT: NONE

STATE OF NEW YORK ss: COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 16<sup>th</sup> Day of June in the year Two Thousand Twenty, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this  $18^{th}$  Day of June in the year Two Thousand Twenty.

|s| Victoria A. Fabella Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk Ulster County Legislature