

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

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**Edwin J. Day**  
*Rockland County Executive*

TO: Laurence O. Toole  
Clerk to the Legislature

FROM: Edwin J. Day  
County Executive

DATE: October 9, 2019

RE: **Resolution No. 422 of 2019** – Calling For A Rockland’s Future Summit In 2020

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I am returning herewith the above-cited Resolution DISAPPROVED.

The purpose of this Resolution is to hold a County Summit next year led by Community Facilitator on issues like overdevelopment and anti-Semitism in Rockland. The main Sponsor of this Resolution has stated that the facilitator will be from outside Rockland. Shockingly, and by her own admission, the Sponsor affirmed that not only did she not even confer with the County of Rockland Commissioner on Human Rights, she was fully unaware of any of the past and current County of Rockland Commission on Human Rights initiatives, and unlike some of her colleagues, she never attended any of the County of Rockland Commission on Human Rights sponsored gatherings. Clearly the intent by this Sponsor and the other Sponsors from the Legislative Majority is to use this Resolution for political purposes, since this Resolution was only voted on 7 weeks from Election Day. Please note that all 17 Legislative Districts are up for election this year.

I believe that the correct persons that should lead this discussion would be the County of Rockland Commissioner on Human Rights and the Commission on Human Rights whom are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Legislature. In 2018 this Commission sponsored and held a Women’s Forum, an Inter-Faith Symposium, and a Fair Housing Symposium. So far in 2019 this Commission sponsored and held a Women’s Forum, and an Inter-Faith Symposium. The Fair Housing Symposium is scheduled for next week. Unfortunately, I have been informed by the Commissioner on Human Rights that there has been very little participation on the part of the Ultra-Orthodox Community, despite efforts to include them in these discussions.

Further, this Resolution was poorly drafted. This Resolution commands that “all participants in the Summit will do their best to do what is in the best interests of the County of Rockland . . .” This

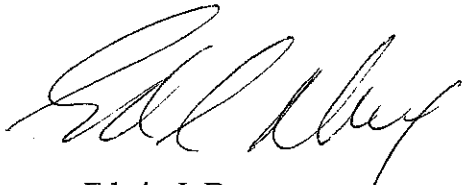
raises a semantic issue that the "County of Rockland" is the government, not the geographic area. If we were to ignore the semantic issue, the concept of what is in the best interest of the community is a subject that is bound to be rife with controversy. It is an unenforceable edict by the Legislature.

This Resolution is also unclear as to who will be responsible for identifying and hiring the Community Facilitator. The Resolution assigns the hiring to "Rockland County". This raises a semantic issue that "Rockland County" is a geographic area and not the government.

If we were to ignore the semantic issue, after identifying several interested parties, from the County Executive and the Leadership of the County Legislature, to the five Town Supervisors, to Rockland County Schools Superintendents, to local College Presidents, to leaders of our Rockland Business Community, to Rockland County Faith leaders, members of the local press and members of the local community, the Community Facilitator will be selected through a process that all major stakeholders will participate in. This raises the issue that there is no definition of "major stakeholder", which is an ambiguous and subjective term. Further, there is no backstop or solution to engage in if there is a lack of agreement, or non-participation by a major stakeholder.

Finally, this Resolution does not discuss nor identify appropriate funding to pay for the Community Facilitator and the Summit.

Based on the above, I am left with no other alternative but to return the above-cited Resolution **DISAPPROVED**.



Edwin J. Day  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

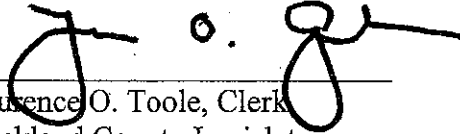
STATE OF NEW YORK     )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF ROCKLAND )

I, the undersigned, Clerk to the Legislature of the County of Rockland DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the attached is an original resolution of such Legislature, duly adopted on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019 by a majority of the members elected to the Legislature while such Legislature was in regular session with a duly constituted quorum of members present and voting.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that at the time said resolution was adopted said Legislature was comprised of seventeen members.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said Legislature this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019.

Date sent to the County Executive:  
September 18, 2019

  
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Laurence O. Toole, Clerk  
Rockland County Legislature

**DISAPPROVED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edwin J. Day, County Executive  
County of Rockland

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**RESOLUTION NO. 442 OF 2019**

Introduced by:

Hon. Nancy Low-Hogan, Sponsor  
Hon. Jay Hood, Jr., Sponsor  
Hon. Alden H. Wolfe, Sponsor  
Hon. Harriet D. Cornell, Sponsor  
Hon. Philip Soskin, Co-Sponsor  
Hon. Toney L. Earl, Co-Sponsor  
Hon. Aney Paul, Co-Sponsor  
Hon. Aron B. Wieder, Co-Sponsor

Referral No. 9272  
September 17, 2019

**RESOLUTION NO. 442 OF 2019  
CALLING FOR A ROCKLAND'S FUTURE SUMMIT IN 2020**

**LOW-HOGAN/CORNELL, EARL: M.V.**

**WHEREAS**, it has become increasingly evident as a result of events that have transpired over the past two days and in recent weeks, that we are on a path in this County towards extreme division and we are about to dissolve into a pool of permanent separation, disintegration and hatred; and

**WHEREAS**, leadership will be required to lead our County in a way that will propel us forward – towards solutions, rather than roadblocks; towards communication, rather than rantings; towards peace rather than fighting; and

**WHEREAS**, how we got here is not so much the issue now as, where are we headed; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the residents of our County are concerned that overdevelopment threatens the sustainability and character of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, anti-Semitism is a major concern of many of the residents of our County; and in today's climate hatred, racism and anti-Semitism have gained a foothold in political discourse; and

**WHEREAS**, we cannot allow hatred and disrespect to flourish unchecked, sow fear and create division; and

**WHEREAS**, we need to work together collaboratively and collegially to mitigate the negative impacts of development, as well as ensure that hate-mongering is not tolerated; and

**WHEREAS**, we need to take action now to achieve a balance in order to restore peace and a sense of community; and

**WHEREAS**, our County is in need of professional expertise to help facilitate communication and trust and lead us in the development of solutions; now, therefore be it

**WHEREAS**, The Multi-Services Committee of the Legislature has met, considered and approved this resolution by a vote of 5 Ayes, 1 Nay and 1 Absent; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Rockland County will hold a Rockland's Future Summit in Spring of 2020; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that attendance at the Summit will be requested by the County Executive and the Leadership of the County Legislature and extended to: the five Town Supervisors, Rockland County Schools Superintendents, local College Presidents, leaders of our Rockland Business Community, Rockland County Faith leaders, members of the local press and members of the local community; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that Rockland County will identify and hire a professional Community Facilitator with the expertise and experience to lead this County forward towards its bright future and who will lead the Summit meetings; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Community Facilitator will be selected through a process that all major stakeholders will participate in; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that all participants in the Summit will do their best to do what is in the best interests of the County of Rockland, and that collectively we will embark on this new beginning for Rockland County which will lead us into our bright future, better tomorrow than we are today; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Clerk to the Legislature be and he is hereby authorized and directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Supervisors and Town Board Members of the Five Towns in Rockland; the Presidents of all Colleges in Rockland County; Al Samuels, President of the Rockland Business Association; the Rockland County Holocaust Museum and Study Center, the Anti-Defamation League; the American and New York chapters of the Civil Liberties Union; the Spring Valley and Nyack chapters of the NAACP; all Rockland County School District Superintendents; and such persons as the Clerk, in his discretion, may deem proper in order to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.

The vote resulted as follows:

Ayes: 10 (Legislators Cornell, Grant, Hood, Jr., Paul, Soskin, Wieder, Wolfe,  
Yeger, Low-Hogan, Earl)  
Nays: 07 (Legislators Carey, Falciglia, Hofstein, Jobson, Moroney, Santulli, Tyer)

LG-2019-73

NLH/ely

8/29/19

8/30/19, 9/12/19, 9/18/19/dmg