



**AGENDA**  
**NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**JANUARY 17, 2012 – 7:00 P.M.**

**Regular Meeting – January 17, 2012**

- IL-001-12** Legislators David E. Godfrey, Michael A. Hill & John Syracuse, re Creation of Niagara-Orleans Regional Alliance
- IL-002-12** Legislator William L. Ross, re State Multi-Year Takeover of the Local Share of Medicaid

Mary Jo Tamburlin, Clerk  
Niagara County Legislature

Attachments for resolutions may be obtained in the office of the Clerk of the Legislature upon request.

**The next meeting of the Legislature will be held on February 7, 2012.**

## **CREATION OF NIAGARA-ORLEANS REGIONAL ALLIANCE**

WHEREAS, the Niagara County Legislature has demonstrated and benefited from an ongoing commitment to regional initiatives, and

WHEREAS, while most of this Legislature's regional initiatives to date have focused on Niagara County it is clear that our region extends beyond this geographic border, and for this reason it is, therefore, desirable to extend our scope of effort as well, and

WHEREAS, cooperative efforts between Orleans and Niagara County, such as Emergency Services, have proven that successful regional initiatives are possible on a grander scale, and

WHEREAS, leadership in both Legislatures have met to discuss an organized, sustained partnership to identify and act on regional priorities for the betterment of both counties and the entire area, and have determined that the time has come for such a partnership to come into existence, now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the Niagara County Legislature does hereby create the Niagara-Orleans Regional Alliance (NORA) for the purpose of advancing regional initiatives in both counties and throughout Western New York, and be it further

RESOLVED, that said partnership shall be a subcommittee of the Niagara County Legislature and of the Orleans County Legislature, shall be co-chaired by the Chairmen of the Orleans and Niagara County Legislatures, or their designees, and shall receive operational support from both Legislatures, and be it further

RESOLVED, that said partnership will consist of two additional members from the Niagara County Legislature to be appointed by the Chairman of the Legislature, two additional members from the Orleans County Legislature to be appointed by the Orleans County Legislature Chairman, the commissioners of both counties Industrial Development Agencies/Economic Development (or a designee), and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Niagara-Orleans Regional Alliance shall meet regularly to establish regional priorities and develop proposals and strategies for implementing said priorities in an effort to reduce costs, increase services, and/or have demonstrable regional impact for both counties, and shall examine such topics as Federal and State Mandate Relief, Emergency Services Narrowbanding, Lakeshore Protection, Agriculture, Economic Development, Tourism and Regional Promotion, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Orleans County Legislature Chairman David Callard, Orleans County Industrial Development Agency CEO/CFO James Whipple and Niagara County Industrial Development Agency/Economic Development Commissioner Samuel Ferraro.

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LEGISLATOR DAVID E. GODFREY

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LEGISLATOR MICHAEL A. HILL

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LEGISLATOR JOHN SYRACUSE

## **STATE MULTI-YEAR TAKEOVER OF THE LOCAL SHARE OF MEDICAID**

WHEREAS, when State lawmakers enacted a property tax cap, they pledged to also enact mandate relief that would enable and empower local leaders to implement that tax cap, but that mandate relief has not materialized, and

WHEREAS, at a local state-wide cost of \$7.3 billion, Medicaid is the number one mandate facing counties, and

WHEREAS, Niagara County property taxpayers will pay approximately \$45.5 million in State Medicaid costs in 2012, and

WHEREAS, if a State takeover of Medicaid is enacted, County property taxes could be reduced by over 63 percent, and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S.5889-B/Assembly Bill A.8644 would require State legislators to take full fiscal responsibility for New York's largest-in-the-nation Medicaid program, by implementing an eight-year (8) gradual takeover of county Medicaid costs, and

WHEREAS, State lawmakers can fund the takeover with a combination of Medicaid program reforms, state-derived savings and other spending controls, including applying the State's Medicaid Redesign Team reform savings to mandate relief and pursuing a Federal Medicaid waiver to leverage State costs-containment initiatives that can be applied to obtain property tax relief, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Niagara County Legislature hereby calls on State lawmakers to keep their promise, by enacting Senate Bill S.5889-B/Assembly Bill A.8644 into law to provide property tax relief for citizens of New York State, in the form of an eight-year State takeover of county Medicaid costs, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Niagara County Legislature is hereby directed to send certified copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senate Temporary President and Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senate Vice President Pro Tem George D. Maziarz, Senator Mark Grisanti, Senator Patrick Gallivan, Senator Michael Ranzenhofer, Senator Cathy Young, Assemblyman John Ceretto, Assemblywoman Jane Corwin, Assemblyman Robin Schimminger, Assemblyman Stephen Hawley, Assemblyman Ray Walter, Niagara USA Chamber of Commerce, Inter-County Association of Western New York and New York State Association of Counties.

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LEGISLATOR WILLIAM L. ROSS