



NEWS FROM THE ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Ulster County Executive Hein Releases Plan for First 100 Days

Kingston, NY: Ulster County Executive Mike Hein is already hard at work improving Ulster County. In his first 100 days, County Executive Hein will move to energize economic development, improve County government efficiencies and forge stronger ties with our local communities.

Shortly after being elected to the new office of County Executive, Hein announced that he was going to "hit the ground running" with an action plan designed to move the County forward. Hein recognized that County government needed to play a much more pro-active role in a number of critical areas, with a particular emphasis on the delivery of economic development services. His First 100 Day Plan, announced today, marks the beginning of what will be a concerted and ongoing effort to bring all available talent and resources to bear on producing the positive results that the people of Ulster County expect and deserve.

"I am looking forward to reporting to the residents of Ulster County that we have completed our 100 day plan ahead of schedule. Together, we face unprecedented challenges and as we go forward, I am committed to delivering quality services while protecting Ulster County taxpayers," said Ulster County Executive Mike Hein.

County Executive Hein is moving to **coordinate Economic Development** efforts, even during these challenging times, by restructuring how we deliver economic development services. Within the first 100 days, he will:

- Develop a clear plan to streamline the County permit processes to assist businesses in planning and scheduling their projects.
- Deliver a plan to take advantage of Federal stimulus funds and advocate on behalf of Ulster County to receive such funds.
- Work with the Ulster County Housing Consortium as it develops and implements a Public Information Campaign in order to raise awareness of affordable housing issues in Ulster County.
- Work with the Agricultural Farmland Protection Board and the Planning Board so that agricultural districts and farmlands are recognized for their importance to our economy and landscape.
 - Complete purchase of development rights transactions on two farms within the Rondout Valley to maintain the economic vitality of agriculture within the valley, preserve a working landscape, and help communities implement their comprehensive plans.
 - Assist farmers working with the Farmland Protection Board to include their farms in agricultural districts within Ulster County during the annual addition period, which begins March 1st.
- Examine the Kingston/Ulster Empire Zone and make recommendations for reforms to New York State so that it can remain a tool for economic development in Ulster County.
- Work closely with the Town of Ulster and Tech City Properties on a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) application to encourage redevelopment of Tech City as soon as possible.
- Establish by Executive Order that economic development is a priority for all county agencies and departments and should be a consideration in day-to-day operations.
- Monitor Ulster County's shovel ready projects to improve water and sewer infrastructure.
- Request that the Legislature adopt the economic development strategies in *Ulster Tomorrow* as party of Ulster County's comprehensive plan.

County Executive Hein will **improve County government efficiencies** by:

- Collaborating with representatives from participating municipalities throughout the County, through the Shared Municipal Services Initiative Grant, to explore better ways to deliver essential services more cost effectively.
- Preparing responses to the Governor's budget proposals that protect the interests of Ulster County residents and provide State representatives with information to avoid "cost shifting."
- Coordinating with local educational institutions to utilize interns throughout our government in order to bring additional resources to the County, while enhancing the educational experiences of our students.
- Inviting County employees to share their ideas for improving efficiencies and cutting costs through implementation of an Employee Suggestion Program.

County Executive Hein is forging **stronger ties with our local communities**. He will:

- Meet monthly with the Town Supervisors' Association to strengthen strategic partnerships throughout the County.
- Improve the County's website, including creation of a new County Executive page, to make it easier for residents, businesses and visitors to access information.
- Direct the Planning Department to conduct a series of outreach seminars for those responsible for planning decisions so that best practices can be implemented County-wide.