



Westchester
County Association

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For Immediate Release

COUNTY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT CHALLENGES COMMENTS OF BOARD OF LEGISLATORS CHAIRMAN ON BUSINESS GROUP'S REVIEW OF PROPOSED 2010 COUNTY BUDGET

WHITE PLAINS, NY (November 19, 2009) – The Westchester County Association (WCA,) the region's leading business organization, took issue with negative comments Westchester County Board of Legislators Chairman Bill Ryan made today in the regional news media regarding the WCA's announcement that it has a team of accountants reviewing the proposed 2010 county budget.

“Once again Chairman Ryan (D-White Plains) is totally missing the mark and making erroneous assumptions with respect to our review of the budget and overall county government spending,” said WCA President Bill Mooney. “Mr. Ryan is quoted today as saying that accountants aren't capable of being 'qualitative' in their thinking. That statement alone clearly shows how far removed he is from the realities of the business world.”

Mooney continued: “The Chairman goes on to say that our organization has no public policy focus. Nothing could be further from the truth. The WCA repeatedly offers recommendations on a wide-range of public policy issues. In fact, our announcement Wednesday clearly stated that our goal is to make “policy recommendations” with respect to the County budget using the input we receive from the independent CPA’s.

“What Chairman Ryan should be asking is why County government is so large and how more efficient ways can be found to deliver County services? Why do public sector employees continue to get raises and outrageous pension plans in today’s economy?

“He should have heard the message sent by the voters that they are fed up with bloated government and are looking for fiscal responsibility, but once again he chose not to listen! Rather, he is choosing to play the intimidation game by stating that the WCA’s approach will be to cut services to the public, especially the poor. Again, that could not be further from the truth. We have taken a consistent and straight-forward approach toward the county and other budgets: Changes in compensation and duplicative services are necessary to allow needed services to survive. We can only hope that moving forward, Chairman Ryan will take a less antagonistic approach and seek to work collaboratively to assure Westchester’s future viability as a business location and place to live.”

The Westchester County Association (www.westchester.org) is the preeminent business membership organization in Westchester County. The Association is committed to business advocacy, economic vitality and to providing a strong and clear voice for the interests of businesses on the regional, national and international levels. Its key objectives are: promoting positive economic development in the region; fostering business development; and providing its members with access and interaction with key public and private sector individuals, agencies and organizations.