

ALBANY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

County Court House Albany, New York 12207 (518) 487-5400 <u>WWW.ALBANYCOUNTYSHERIFF.COM</u>



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January 10, 2022

Hon. Andrew C. Joyce, Chairman Albany County Legislature 112 State Street, Room 710 Albany, New York, 12207

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write to bring to your attention a pressing issue concerning the Albany County Sheriff's Office's ability to recruit, hire, and employ qualified personnel.

In 1995, the Albany County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 245-C which established a residency requirement for all current and future municipal employees of Albany County. At that time, the Legislature recognized an exception to the residency requirements for instances where no qualified Albany County candidates could be identified.

In 2013, the Albany County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 587 which modified and clarified Resolution No. 245-C by creating an exemption to the residency requirement for certain "employees who have not been in full compliance yet have been working hard for the taxpayers of Albany County."

More recently, on November 30, 2021, Albany County Executive McCoy issued Executive Order and Directive No. 3, which recognized that during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, "Albany County's residency requirement has become a barrier to addressing the workforce needs of the County which must hire new employees immediately to perform its vital functions and services."

The Albany County Sheriff's Office faces a very similar situation. We are currently having great difficulty attracting qualified candidates solely residing within the County. The emergency nature of Covid-19 crisis has resulted in a dramatic decrease in applications for Deputy Positions, Corrections Officers and all other support staff throughout the County.

I know that I do not have to remind you of the essential role that the Sheriff's Office plays in promoting and maintaining public safety. As such, in order to assure that I take all necessary steps to recruit, hire and employ highly qualified candidates, I am requesting Legislative approval for the Sheriff's Office to be granted an exemption to the County's residency requirement provisions.

Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts and comments. I look forward to discussing this matter with you and members of the Legislature.

Sincerely,

Claig D. A Sheriff