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August 26, 2024

Hon. Joanne Cunningham, Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State St., Room 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham:

The Department of Social Services respectfully requests legislative approval for the following:

Pursuant to 18 NYCRR 304.1, local Social Service Districts are required to provide emergency/transitional shelter to individuals and families experiencing homelessness during extreme winter weather regardless of circumstance or eligibility. Therefore, authorization is requested to contract with the Capital Area Council of Churches for \$154,755 to provide mandated emergency Code Blue shelter services for Albany County's chronically homeless individuals who are not eligible for contracted shelter or when contracted shelters are full.

This seasonal shelter serves men 18 years and older who are chronically homeless and without other shelter options between November 1, 2024 - April 30, 2025. This homeless population often suffers from mental illness or addiction and is unable or unwilling to stay in more traditional shelters or hotels/motels. The shelter serves residents who live on the street and under bridges, primarily in the City of Albany. For many, this shelter is the last door they find open to them.

Sincerely,

Michele G. McClave
Commissioner

cc: Hon. Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader
Hon. Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel
Amis Zilgme, Minority Counsel