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PATRICK ALDERSON
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November 7, 2024

Honorable Joanne Cunningham, Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State Street, Room 710
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham:

The Division of Information Services is respectfully requesting legislative authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Shared Services Agreement with New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to provide Albany County with a Cybersecurity Risk Assessment at no cost. This assessment will include a Phishing Assessment, Cyber Risk Assessment, Penetration Testing and Adhoc Vulnerability Scans. The Phishing Assessment will simulate an email-based phishing attack to assess the effectiveness of our email security training, including a separate training to educate users on how to spot phishing messages. A report will be issued after the assessment is complete. The Cyber Risk Assessment will include one or more of the following activities: vulnerability scanning of publicly accessible IT devices and internal IT devices, Open-Source Intelligence gathering, a review of our internal policies related to Cyber Security and interviews with personnel to understand our internal controls and policies. A final report will be provided at the end of the assessment. Penetration Testing will include a simulated cyber-attack against our local infrastructure. Any identified vulnerabilities may be noted during the assessment and will culminate in a final report. Lastly, Adhoc Vulnerability Scans will be performed against publicly accessible systems and services at our request. These scans can be used during a potential Cyber incident or to test new publicly accessible applications or services.

Thank you for your consideration. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Patrick Alderson

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