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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 (Code Blue) regardless of circumstance or eligibility. Therefore, authorization is requested to contract with the Altamont Program for \$402,200 to operate a warming center between November 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025 to meet mandated emergency measures and provide a low-barrier shelter option to augment existing homeless program(s) during the winter months. The Warming Station, located at 45 South Ferry Street, can serve up to 25 individuals.

The Warming Center will operate from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., seven days per week during Code Blue Season (November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) and will serve single male and female adults 18 years and older who present as homeless and are unable or unwilling to engage with established shelter services through the Albany County Department of Social Services or experience difficulty finding accommodations within the established shelter system (shelter or motel) due to past or potential circumstances, most often relating to mental health or substance use.

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