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September 30, 2025

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

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham:

Per 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, the Department of Social Services (DSS) respectfully requests authorization to contract with the Capital Area Council of Churches (CACC) for \$261,446 to provide seasonal overflow shelter services for up to 19 chronically homeless men 18 years and older when other contracted shelters are full or otherwise unavailable between November 2025 through April 2026.

Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness often suffer from mental illness and/or substance use disorders, and are unable or unwilling to stay in more traditional shelters or hotel/motels. For many, the CACC Shelter is the last door they find open to them during Code Blue.

Sincerely,

Erin M. Stachewicz
Commissioner

cc: Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader
Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Esq., Majority Counsel
James Curran, Esq., Minority Counsel