

County Legislator Ben Boykin
Discussion with Scarsdale Neighborhood
Associations Presidents (SNAP)

Monday, October 2, 2017



Agenda

- Ben Boykin Committees & PSSS Committee Oversight
- Role of County Legislator
- Brief Operating Budget Update
- Housing Settlement
- Ban on Gun Shows on County Owned Property
- Drone Legislation
- Earned Sick Leave
- Medical Opioid Legislation
- North 60 Lease
- Immigration Protection Act (IPA)
- Airport Privatization Process
- Shared Services
- Scarsdale Items
- Q & A

<http://westchesterlegislators.com/district-5.html>

Ben Boykin Committees

- Chairman, Public Safety & Social Services (PSSS)
- Co-chair, Minority Affairs Task Force
- Member :
 - Appointments, Vice Chairman
 - Budget & Appropriations, Vice Chairman
 - Environment & Health
 - Infrastructure
 - Legislation

PSSS Committee Oversight

- Oversight for Departments whose spending comprise 45% of County's Operating Budget
- Areas of Responsibility:
 - Public Safety Department
 - Corrections Department
 - Emergency Services Department
 - Probation Department
 - Social Services Department
 - Mental Health Department
 - Youth Bureau
 - Human Rights Commission

Role of County Legislator

- Legislative, policy-making branch of Westchester County
- Co-equal branch with County Executive
- Approve budgets and spending
 - 12 votes for issuance of bonds
 - 9 votes for other items
 - 12 votes to override County Executive veto
- Levy County taxes
- Provide oversight of County Departments
- Approve appointments of County Executive
- Introduce & pass laws, acts and resolutions
- Serve constituents

Brief Operating Budget Update

- \$1.81 billion operating budget
- \$7 million budget shortfall
- Without \$15 million from airport privatization, \$22 million budget shortfall
- Airport privatization process to be discussed later

Housing Settlement

- AI (Analysis of Impediments) accepted by US Department of Housing and Urban Renewal in July
- 750 units built under settlement
- 7 year battle with HUD
- County lost about \$25 million of Community Development funds during seven year battle with HUD
- No impact on Scarsdale

Ban on Gun Shows on County Owned Property

- Passed by Board of Legislators by a 9 to 8 vote on January 9
- Vetoed by County Executive Astorino on January 19
- No override vote has currently been scheduled

Drone Legislation

- Prohibit drone use within 1,000 feet of the Westchester County Correctional Facility
- Can be used by law enforcement, fire or emergency service agencies
- Unanimously approved by Board of Legislators in March
- Penalty for violation
 - Civil penalty for first offense of \$1,000
 - Misdemeanor for each additional offense

Earned Sick Leave

- Introduced in April 2017
- Several PSSS Committee meetings held; additional meetings are planned
- Bill requires:
 - All employers with more than 5 employees – workers accrue a minimum of one hour of earned paid sick leave for every 30 hours works
 - All employers with 5 or fewer employees – workers accrue unpaid, but job protected, sick time
 - Modeled after the NYC law

Medical Opioid Legislation

- Legislation to ban the sale of synthetic drugs unanimously passed by a vote of 17 to 0
- Bill imposes fines for individuals and businesses violating this law
- Legislation to initiate legal proceedings with other counties against pharmaceutical companies and physicians with regard to deceptive marketing of prescription opium-like (opioids) in Westchester County approved on Monday, September 25

North 60 Lease

- Board of Legislators voted unanimously in April to approve a 99 year lease for a \$1.2 billion BioScience & Technology Center on the North 60 land in Valhalla
- 3 million sq. ft. for a tech and science development which will eventually generate \$9 million in taxes and \$7 million in rent for the County
- Create many new jobs for County residents

Immigration Protection Act (IPA)

- Many months went into developing this law to protect our residents regardless of their immigration status. Worked with many stakeholders for this legislation
- Approved by Board of Legislators on August 7 by a vote of 10 to 5
- Bill vetoed by County Executive Astorino in late August
- Vote to override veto held on Monday, September 25. Override vote failed by a vote of 11 to 6

Airport Privatization Process

- Board of Legislators rejected County Executive proposal done without a competitive bid process for 2017 Budget
- I serve on Airport Task Force (three Legislators & three individuals from CE Staff)
 - Frasca & Associates LLC (Frasca) selected as consultants to assist with RFP process
 - Frasca assisted with soliciting proposals from bidders
 - Three firms submitted bids
 - FerroStar (partnership between Ferroival, a Spanish company and Star America
 - MIC Airports (subsidiary of New York based Macquaire Infrastructure
 - HPN Aviation Group (joint venture from Oaktree Capital and Connor Capital)

Airport Privatization(con't)

- Task Force currently evaluating bids
- Selected bidder will be presented to Board of Legislators for vetting and due diligence
- Committee Meetings and Public Hearings to be held
- No assurances that any transaction will be completed and approved by Board of Legislators
- Transaction must be sensitive to all stakeholders – taxpayers, airport customers and surrounding residents while protecting our environment
- Any transaction will also require approval by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Only two FAA Privatization Pilot Programs (which allow for airport funds to be used for Operating Budgets) have ever been approved and executed since this program was put in place in 1996

Shared Services

- Shared Services Plan required to be submitted to NY State for revenue sharing/cost reduction opportunities. Plan submitted in September
- Scarsdale has been in the forefront of seeking shared services with other municipalities and the County (911 services, bucket truck from County for bridge work, Cooper Tree storm water management project, school district and Village working together)

Scarsdale Items

- Bronx River Parkway Reservation trail from Scarsdale Train Station to Hartsdale Train Station - \$6.7 million approved for project
- Food Composting Program in Scarsdale – first in Westchester County; food scraps collected and then carted to a commercial facility in CT
- Westchester County has food scrap pilot program; Board of Legislators approved an application to spend up to \$34.6 million Recycling Facility Plan (Plan) for Refuse District 1 (Yonkers, White Plains & Mt. Vernon) on Sept. 25; Includes \$6.0 million for food waste recovery program; Long process – Plan must first be approved by NY State Comptroller before process can proceed to next step

Questions and Answers

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