

RESOLUTION NO. 191

RESOLUTION REQUESTING ALBANY COUNTY COMPTROLLER MICHAEL CONNERS TO REVIEW THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS) FOR COMPLIANCE WITH PREVIOUS COMPTROLLER RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduced: 5/12/14

By Ms. Benedict:

WHEREAS, Albany County Comptroller Michael Connors issued a review in 2008 entitled “*Review Department of Social Services Temporary Assistance Division Motel Placement*” and a review in 2010 entitled “*Review Department of Social Services Temporary Assistance Division Shelter Allowance Policies and Procedures*”, and

WHEREAS, Both reviews offered findings and recommendations that would not only provide financial and security benefits to Albany County when it places individuals and families in motels and other housing options, but would also provide safer conditions for those we place and assist the County in conforming with New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (NYS OTDA) regulations, and

WHEREAS, The Comptroller recommended that the County enter into appropriate contracts with all operators of motels used to place the homeless and ensure that contracts contain measurable performance standards that guarantee safe, secure and sanitary housing and penalties for poor performance, and

WHEREAS, The Comptroller reported that Albany County DSS has chosen to issue cash security deposits in lieu of a security agreement letter to private landlords for clients on Temporary Disability and recommended that cash deposits be placed in a DSS owned escrow account set up by the Comptroller’s Office that collects interest as per NYS OTDA, and

WHEREAS, The Comptroller also recommended that payments should not be authorized to any public housing authority without a cash security letter and written request substantiating the claims, and that recovery procedures from the client must be initiated in all cases where a cash security is issued, and

WHEREAS, The Comptroller stated both a pre-tenancy inspection form and post-tenancy inspection form should be utilized, and stipulated that DSS must adhere to NYS OTDA requirements for the use of a post-tenancy inspection form, and

WHEREAS, The Comptroller offered other recommendations to protect both the County and its clients, and these proposals should have been adopted by Albany County DSS for the best interest of the County and its clients, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Albany County Legislature requests that Albany County Comptroller Michael Conners conduct a further review of the County's Department of Social Services to see if all recommendations issued in the above-referenced reports have been adopted and adhered to, be it

RESOLVED, The County Comptroller report back to this Legislative Body, not later than November 3, 2014, his findings and also provide this Body with any further recommendations regarding the placement of families and individuals by Albany County in private and public housing and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Social Services Committee. 5/12/14