

RESOLUTION NO. 272

RESOLUTION REQUIRING ALBANY COUNTY TO WORK WITH LOCAL FIRE COMPANIES WHEN INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS ON COUNTY-OWNED BUILDINGS

Introduced: 7/14/14

By Mr. Stevens, Mss. Benedict, Busch, Mssrs. Carman, Crouse, Hogan, Ms. Lockart, Messrs. Tunny and Reilly:

WHEREAS, Albany County has gone “Green” and County departments, projects, and buildings are being reviewed in a quest for more energy efficiency, and

WHEREAS, Solar panels are among the technologies being considered for County buildings, and

WHEREAS, solar energy is a useful and valuable source of power but the panels used to create solar energy are obstacles to local firefighters when they are called to respond to fire alarms, and

WHEREAS, Solar panels cannot be shut off and generate electricity constantly when any type of light is present, whether daylight or electronic lamp light, thereby making electrocution one of the hazards firefighters face when responding to structures with solar panels, and

WHEREAS, solar panels minimize the area on a roof upon which firefighters can walk and prevent firefighters from making ventilation holes in roofs, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, Prior to the installation of solar panels on County structures, County officials must consult with the local fire department in whose jurisdiction the structure is located to ensure all solar panel installations are designed with firefighting and firefighter safety in mind, and be it further

RESOLVED, that prior to the building plans being finalized the local fire department be provided the manufacturers information on the solar panels to be installed, and plans depicting the contemplated layout of the panels and where the electrical disconnects will be located so the department may comment upon same, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the local fire department be provided copies of all “as built” structural and electrical plans for each building where solar panels are placed, and, be it further

RESOLVED, a placard deemed acceptable by the local fire department be placed upon the county building identifying that it is equipped with a solar energy installation and whether the type of system is a Solar Thermal System or a Photovoltaic System, and, be it further

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

Referred to Public Works Committee. 7/14/14