

RESOLUTION NO. 353-a

REQUESTING ALBANY COUNTY REMOVE FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS FROM CERTAIN MOTELS ON ROUTE 5, TOWN OF COLONIE

Introduced: 8/13/07

By Ms. Benedict:

WHEREAS, A most solemn duty that the County of Albany performs and that this Honorable Body oversees, is the duty to ensure that destitute families with children are provided safe and appropriate shelter, and

WHEREAS, The Albany County Department of Social Services administers the programs that place families and individuals in temporary housing, and

WHEREAS, The Albany County Department of Social Services currently permits the placement of individuals and families with children in the Skylane, the Best Value, and the Blue Bell motels on Route 5 (Central Avenue), Town of Colonie, and

WHEREAS, The Skylane, the Best Value, and the Blue Bell motels are unsuitable places for children to reside as indicated by FOIL information; to wit,

Blue Bell Motel - Inspection of exterior and rooms show broken rotted windows, falling soffets, rotted bathroom floors, waste accumulation, mold, interior water damage, mice infestation, broken sewer cap, falling interior ceiling, damaged water heater, smoke detectors missing or mounted in wrong place, live wires hanging from the ceiling, exterior grease on-site from adjoining restaurant, drainage ditch containing garbage and debris, and open sewer cap with feces on ground

Skylane Motel - inspection of exterior and rooms show no up-to-date fire alarm certifications, raw sewage, structural damage to roof, interior water damage, mold throughout entire room, exposed wiring, gas leak, missing bathroom tiles, rooms missing smoke detectors, bug infestation, bathroom mold, debris piled outside rooms, electric socket falling from wall, spliced wiring, cracked toilets

Best Value Inn - inspection of exterior and rooms indicate improperly installed electric line, rotted bathroom and shower floors, rotted windows, no screens on windows, rubbish accumulation outside of room, waste accumulation, broken thermostat, non-working smoke detectors, "animals" in attic, air conditioner sealed with rags, bathroom ceiling in need of repair, accumulation of materials throughout exterior yard, obstructed fire alarm, rubbish in deli, and fire extinguisher not tagged, and

WHEREAS, This Honorable Body finds that this situation requires the immediate attention of this Body and the immediate action of the Albany County Government, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature that no families with children or any other individuals be placed through the Department of Social Services in the Skylane, the Best Value, and the Blue Bell motels, and, be it further

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature that any families with children or any other individuals that have been placed through the Albany County Department of Social Services in the Skylane, the Best Value, and the Blue Bell motels be removed immediately from said motels and placed in appropriate residents, and, be it further

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature that placement of any families with children and any other individuals cease until such time that all building code violations are rectified and proof of building code compliance verification is provided to this Honorable Body, and, be it further

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

Mr. Commisso proposed the following amendment which deletes Resolution No. 353 and substitutes it with the following:

RESOLUTION NO. 353-a

URGING THE TOWN OF COLONIE TO ENFORCE THE BUILDING CODE TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF ALL RESIDENTS OF THE BLUE BELL MOTEL, SKYLANE MOTEL AND THE BEST VALUE INN

Introduced: 8/13/07

By Messrs. Commisso, Aidala, Aylward, Beston, Burke, Clay, Clenahan, Collins, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cotrofeld, Dawson, Domalewicz, Ethier, Gordon, Horstmyer, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Monjeau, Morse, Nichols, Reilly, Riddick, Shafer, Steck, Ward, Mss. Wiley and Willingham:

WHEREAS, Legislator Christine Benedict claims to have received information from the Town of Colonie indicating that there are numerous code violations at the Blue Bell Motel, Skylane Motel and the Best Value Inn which violations may pose a danger to the health, safety and well-being of the all of the residents of these motels, and

WHEREAS, The Town of Colonie Building Department and/or the Town of Colonie Department of Fire Services has the responsibility to enforce the provisions of the Building Code to protect the health, safety and well-being of the residents of these motels and despite the fact that the Colonie Building Department and/or the Town of Colonie Department of Fire Services has provided an extensive list of code violations to Ms. Benedict which she has publicly disclosed, the Colonie Building Department and/or the Town of Colonie Department of Fire Services has apparently not proceeded against the owners of these motels to force their compliance with the Building Code, and

WHEREAS, The failure of the Town of Colonie to force compliance with the Building Code and thus protect the health, safety and well-being of all of the residents of these motels must be remedied immediately, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature urges the Town of Colonie Building Department and/or the Town of Colonie Department of Fire Services to immediately undertake enforcement proceedings against the owners of the Blue Bell Motel, Skylane Motel and the Best Value Inn to assure that these motels are immediately made code compliant to protect the health, safety and well-being of the residents of these motels, and, be it further

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

On roll call vote on the amendment proposed by Mr. Commisso (353-a) the following voted in favor: Mr. Aylward, Mss. Barlette, Benedict, Messrs. Beston, Burke, Carman, Clay, Clenahan, Clouse, Collins, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cotrofeld, Dawson, Domalewicz, Ethier, Gordon, Hoblock, Horstmyer, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Monjeau, Morse, Nichols, Ms. Prentiss, Messrs. Reilly, Riddick, Shafer, Steck, Tunny, Ward, Mss. Wiley and Willingham – 38.

Those opposed: Mr. Aidala – 1.

Amendment was adopted and resolution was renumbered as Resolution No. 353-a.

Ms. Benedict proposed the following amendment to Resolution No. 353-a:

Add:

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature that no families with children or any other individuals be placed through the Department of Social Services in the Skylane, the Best Value, and the Blue Bell motels, and, be it further

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature that any families with children or any other individuals that have been placed through the Albany County Department of Social Services in the Skylane, the Best Value, and the Blue Bell motels be removed immediately from said motels and placed in appropriate residents, and, be it further

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature that placement of any families with children and any other individuals cease until such time that all building code violations are rectified and proof of building code compliance verification is provided to this Honorable Body, and, be it further

On roll call vote on the amendment to Resolution No. 353-a the following voted in favor: Messrs. Aidala, Aylward, Mss. Barlette, Benedict, Messrs. Carman, Clouse, Dawson, Ethier, Hoblock, Horstmyer, Mayo, Morse, Nichols, Ms. Prentiss, Messrs. Shafer, Tunny and Ms. Wiley – 17.

Those opposed: Messrs. Beston, Burke, Clay, Clenahan, Collins, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cotrofeld, Domalewicz, Gordon, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Mr. McCoy, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Monjeau, Reilly, Riddick, Steck, Ward and Ms. Willingham – 22.

Amendment was defeated.

Resolution No. 353-a was adopted by voice vote. 8/13/07