

RESOLUTION NO. 522

CLARIFYING THE IMPORTANCE OF ORDER AND DECORUM AT THE VARIOUS ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Introduced: 11/13/18
By Mr. Signoracci:

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Rules 21 and 22 of the Albany County Legislature has established various standing committees in order to consider specific areas or topics coming before the body, and

WHEREAS, In some instances legal clarifications regarding an item or of parliamentary procedures and rules affecting the committee are necessary in order to further inform the members' decisions related to a legislative item or which form actions should take as to comport with the rules and procedures the committee and the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, The Majority Counsel, Deputy Majority Counsel and Minority Counsel have been the traditionally recognized and respected positions to provide such interpretation or to raise legal issues at such meetings on behalf of the members of the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, It is disruptive to the committee process and to the order and decorum of the meeting for individuals who are not either members of such committees or the Majority Counsel, Deputy Majority Counsel and Minority Counsel, to call out their own personal opinions on a topic or to otherwise attempt speak over the members of such committees or their respective counsel(s) without first being recognized by the chairperson of the committee to speak, and

WHEREAS, In order to further assist the chairpersons of such committees in clarifying and enforcing order and decorum at these meetings, a reaffirmation of such rules and long standing practices and traditions of this Honorable Body is necessary, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature, that in instances regarding legal issues pertinent to an item before the committee, or when speaking to the legal position regarding parliamentary procedures or practices that govern the various committees, only the member s of such committee or the Majority Counsel, Deputy Majority Counsel or Minority Counsel may address these issues at the first instance, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any other member of the Legislature or their staff wishing to speak on such topics must first be recognized by the chairperson of the committee in order to speak, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the chairperson of such committee has a responsibility and a duty to keep and enforce order and decorum at such meetings, and that the members of this Honorable Body expect that such standards will be respected in order to preserve the dignity of their committees and the process as a whole, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That it is the duty and responsibility of the committee members themselves to ensure that the chairpersons of such committees are following the customs and traditions of order and decorum of the legislature, 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.

Withdrawn by sponsor – 11/13/18