

RESOLUTION NO. 437-a

PROHIBITING THE EXPENDITURE OF COUNTY FUNDS FOR OUT OF STATE EMPLOYEE TRAVEL FOR TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

Introduced: 2/8/10

By Mr. Higgins, Audit and Finance Committee and Mr. Scavo:

WHEREAS, Albany County is facing one of the biggest budget deficits in the last twenty years due to the national recession and its effects within the county borders, and

WHEREAS, The Albany County Legislature, at the request of the County Executive, has already amended the 2009 county budget twice in the last ten months in an effort to cut additional spending and maintain fiscal stability, and

WHEREAS, Despite these amendments and cuts the county has not reviewed or adjusted its 2009 travel policy or budget for those county departments or county employees who have traveled or intend to travel out of state to attend work related conferences, trainings and other activities in an effort to find additional cost savings, and

WHEREAS, In the 2009 budget, on a departmental basis, nearly \$425,000 in total county funds was appropriated in Conferences, Training and Tuition line items, some of which to accommodate travel of county employees to attend work related conferences, trainings, and other activities in an effort to find additional cost savings, and

WHEREAS, In light of the budgetary constraints facing the county in this economic climate we should be doing everything possible to cut costs and trim budgets, notwithstanding the need of Albany County employees to receive the most up to date training and continuing education in their respective units and jobs, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body hereby establishes restrictions on County employee travel for the purpose of training, conferences and continuing education programs in which any County funding is being expended, and, be it further

RESOLVED, In the event that travel expenses are 100% reimbursed with funds other than County funding or the travel expense is required to secure grant funding, written verification and justification must be submitted to the Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee for review, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all County funded out of state travel on official county business to attend work related conferences, trainings, and other activities by county employees is hereby immediately suspended, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That passage of this resolution shall only effect prospective travel plans that have not already been confirmed and committed, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any anticipated travel expenditures exceeding \$500 of County funding shall be forwarded to the Albany County Legislature for approval and authorization, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this policy take effect immediately and be distributed to every county department head for dissemination to his or her staff, 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.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 4/12/10