

RESOLUTION NO. 453

REQUESTING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO SUPPORT LOCAL RETAIL IN ALBANY COUNTY

Introduced: 11/8/10

By Messrs. Nichols, Clenahan, Gordon, Reilly, Scavo and Bullock:

WHEREAS, The proposed 2011 Albany County Budget exhibits a prime example of the dependency Albany County has on local sales tax and the affect of a down shift in purchases at the local level, and

WHEREAS, A strong, locally owned, independent business community is essential for building a “local, living economy,” that is, an economy based on local, independent ownership that enhances the social fairness, community spirit, financial vitality, and environmental health of the region and independent, locally owned and controlled businesses of the Capital District add choice to our lives and they add a “sense of place” and heart to the neighborhoods where they are located; they offer unique goods and personalized services; and they care about the region's environment, quality of life, and neighborhoods; they re-energize areas that may otherwise become blighted, and they purchase products from other local organizations, thereby multiplying the impact of our dollars on the Capital District's economy, and

WHEREAS, The locally owned, independent sector is the backbone of a local, living economy and significantly more money re-circulates in the Capital District when purchases are made at locally owned businesses (including banks and credit unions), and

WHEREAS, Local businesses are key supporters of local nonprofits, and are one-of-a-kind businesses and local non-profit organizations are an integral part of our distinctive character and contribute to the region's quality of life, and

WHEREAS, Most new jobs are provided by local businesses and local business owners invest in all types of communities, regardless of socio-economic conditions and they contribute proportionately more to the local tax base than non-local corporations, and

WHEREAS, Locally owned businesses often offer quality goods and services not available elsewhere and local business owners serve as mentors to others who wish to start new, locally owned, and independent businesses and nonprofit organizations, and especially encourage socially responsible business and social enterprise development among lower income, women, and minority micro-enterprises, and

WHEREAS, Locally owned businesses yield a “living return” to owners and investors that balances self-interest with one’s obligation to the community and future generations; a return that contributes to efforts to build a more sustainable regional economy, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the County Executive is requested to develop a program to encourage County employees to support local businesses so that the County can help itself create a stable local economy, 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.

Referred to Personnel Committee. 11/8/10