

RESOLUTION NO. 465

DIRECTING THE GENERAL SERVICES COMMISSIONER TO TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO BRING THE WILLIAM RICE JR. EXTENSION CENTER BUILDING INTO COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT BY SEPTEMBER 2007

Introduced: 12/4/06

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

WHEREAS, Agriculture is an important segment of Albany County's economy, which in 2002 accounted for \$19.355 million in sales of farm products and provided income for families operating 484 farms of all sizes, and

WHEREAS, A 2002 Census of Agriculture in Albany County compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, New York Agricultural Statistics Service, reported that the market value of agricultural products sold per farm averaged \$39,990 and included sales from hay and grains to support beef and dairy farms, livestock, poultry and their products and fruits, vegetables, Christmas trees, greenhouse and nursery crops, and

WHEREAS, Albany County farm operators are supported by the Cornell Cooperative Extension and two U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies, the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, which lease space in the County-owned William Rice Jr. Extension Center Building at 24 Martin Road near Voorheesville in the Town of New Scotland, and

WHEREAS, The two federal agencies, which distributed \$860,000 to farmers in the federal 2004-2005 fiscal year, have informed the County that they will be unable to sign a lease renewal after September 30, 2007 if the County has not taken steps to bring the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and

WHEREAS, The County's Capital Program projects a \$643,000 cost to address needed repairs, maintenance issues and ADA code deficiencies based on a 2003 Department of General Services assessment of the building, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature directs the General Services Commissioner to evaluate the building's shortcoming and report the findings to the Legislature and to complete the work necessary to meet ADA requirements by September 2007, 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. 12/4/06