

RESOLUTION NO. 266

AMENDING RULE 2 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE RULES OF ORDER

Introduced: 6/12/17

By Messrs. Signoracci and Clenahan:

WHEREAS, Rule 2 of the Albany County Legislative Rules of Order provide that members of the public may address the Legislature at its monthly meetings on matters pertaining to the County of Albany, and

WHEREAS, At its regular meetings, speakers frequently take up time before the meetings addressing issues not on the agenda or directly pertaining to issues within the legislature's purview, and

WHEREAS, It is important that members of the public have the opportunity to address the legislature on the particular issues on the agenda to be considered that evening, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Rule 2 of the Albany County Rules of Order be amended in part to read as follows:

“PUBLIC FORUM – From 6:30 p.m. until its conclusion, and in no event shall the Public Forum continue past 7:30 p.m., except that the Chairperson, in his/her discretion, may extend the time for the Public Forum, on the night of each monthly meeting, annual meeting and adjournment thereof, members of the public shall have the right to address the members of the Legislature on matters pertaining to the County of Albany. Each member of the public who desires to address the Legislature shall personally give their name to the Clerk of the Legislature from 6:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on such evening. The members of the public should state the topic on which they wish to speak. The Clerk shall maintain such list from month-to-month in a continuous fashion. The Chairperson of the County Legislature shall allow each member of the public whose name is reached five (5) minutes, except that the Chairperson, in his/her discretion, may limit speakers to three (3) minutes to give as many speakers as possible an opportunity to address the issues on that evening's legislative agenda. If all speakers wishing to address the legislature on that evening's agenda have spoken, speakers wishing to speak on other matters pertaining to Albany County may address the legislature in the remaining time before the meeting and, if at the end of the hour there are still speakers who have not been heard, the Public Forum shall continue after the legislature has adjourned the meeting. No member of the Legislature shall question any speaker nor shall any speakers be allowed to question members of the Legislature.”

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Chairman of the Legislature and the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Law Committee. 6/12/17

Favorable Recommendation – Law Committee 6/24/17

Motion was made by Mr. Bullock to amend Resolution 266 as follows:

Insert after the first Resolve Clause “Resolved: that the Albany County Legislature acknowledges the Public Forum is an important part of our monthly meetings and will include these forums in our recordings, live streaming and on the County web site”.

On roll call vote the following voted in favor of the amendment: Messrs. Bullock, Burgdorf, Clenahan Crouse, Ms. Cunningham, Messrs. Dawson, Domalewicz, Fein, Grimm, Higgins, Hogan, A. Joyce, R. Joyce, Mss. Lekakis, Lockart, Messrs. Mauriello, Mayo, Ms. McLean Lane, Messrs. Mendick, Miller, O’Brien, Reinhardt, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Touchette and Tunny – 27

Those opposed: Mr. Beston, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Commisso, Duncan, Ethier, Feeney, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Signoracci, Ward and Ms. Willingham - 11

The amendment was adopted.

Referred to Law Committee at request of the sponsor. 7/10/17