

MEMORIALIZING THE ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE ULSTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO IMPOSE AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON NEW EMERGENCY-HOUSING PLACEMENTS AT THE KINGSTON MOTEL AND TO PREPARE A WRITTEN RELOCATION AND DISCONTINUATION PLAN

Sponsored by: Legislators Kovacs and Berardi

WHEREAS, the County of Ulster, through its Department of Social Services, utilizes hotels and motels as temporary emergency housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Kingston Motel, located in the Town of Ulster, is being used by the Ulster County Department of Social Services for the placement of individuals and families requiring emergency housing; and

WHEREAS, hotel and motel placements are intended to provide temporary emergency shelter and should not become a prolonged substitute for safe, stable, and appropriate housing; and

WHEREAS, serious and continuing concerns have been raised regarding the safety, security, sanitation, management, and overall suitability of the Kingston Motel as emergency housing, particularly for families with children; and

WHEREAS, these concerns have included reported property-maintenance and health-and-safety deficiencies, repeated demands upon emergency services, and the prolonged placement of individuals and families in accommodations that lack many of the ordinary facilities and services necessary for long-term residential occupancy; and

WHEREAS, a Town of Ulster Police Department analysis reflects that, between January 1 and June 26, 2026, the Department recorded 303 calls for service at the Kingston Motel—an average of approximately 11.7 calls per week—resulting in 464 separate officer responses, with 176 property checks and 51 special details demonstrating the sustained heightened patrol attention required at the property; and

WHEREAS, ambulance-call data provided by Empress Emergency Medical Services and compiled for the Town of Ulster reflects 142 ambulance calls associated with the Kingston Motel during the period from March 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, these 142 calls represent approximately nine ambulance calls per month, or approximately one ambulance call every three to four days, during the reported 16-month period; and

WHEREAS, among the facilities and addresses included in the Town of Ulster ambulance-call analysis, the Kingston Motel ranked seventh in total calls, tied with the ARC Mid-Hudson Palmer Center, and accounted for approximately 2.7 percent of all ambulance calls reflected in

the analysis; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that ambulance-call data, standing alone, does not establish the cause, severity, or circumstances of each call and that residents should not be stigmatized because they required emergency medical assistance; and

WHEREAS, nevertheless, the frequency of ambulance calls associated with the Kingston Motel constitutes an objective indicator of the substantial demands placed upon emergency services and reinforces the need for a comprehensive review of the health, safety, supervision, case-management, and supportive-service needs of the individuals and families placed at the facility; and

WHEREAS, residents placed at the Kingston Motel are not responsible for the conditions at the facility and should not be displaced without appropriate alternative housing, case-management services, transportation assistance, and a coordinated transition plan; and

WHEREAS, the continued placement of additional individuals and families at the Kingston Motel while substantial concerns regarding the facility remain unresolved may expose additional vulnerable residents to unsuitable conditions, increase demands upon municipal and emergency services, and further complicate the orderly relocation of those presently housed there; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the Ulster County Legislature have raised these concerns with the Office of the Ulster County Executive and the Ulster County Department of Social Services and have requested meaningful corrective action; and

WHEREAS, despite meetings and discussions with representatives of the County Executive and the Department of Social Services, no written plan has been presented to the Legislature establishing a firm timetable for ending new placements, relocating existing residents, or discontinuing the County's use of the Kingston Motel; and

WHEREAS, at its regularly scheduled meeting held on August 6, 2026, the Town Board of the Town of Ulster formally called for the cessation of emergency-housing placements at the Kingston Motel and for the closure of the Kingston Motel as a facility used for emergency housing; and

WHEREAS, the Kingston Motel is located within the Town of Ulster, whose residents, municipal government, police department, ambulance providers, code-enforcement personnel, and other public services directly experience the local impacts associated with the County's continued use of the facility; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature recognizes and supports the Town of Ulster's request that the County discontinue new placements at the Kingston Motel and develop an orderly and humane plan to relocate the individuals and families presently housed there; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the present situation is unacceptable and that an orderly,

humane, transparent, and time-limited plan is necessary to end the County's reliance upon the Kingston Motel for emergency-housing placements; and

WHEREAS, an immediate moratorium on new placements would prevent the population at the facility from increasing while the County identifies appropriate alternative accommodations and develops a responsible plan for relocating current residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby joins the Town Board of the Town of Ulster in calling upon the Ulster County Executive and the Ulster County Commissioner of Social Services to immediately impose a moratorium on all new emergency-housing placements at the Kingston Motel and to discontinue the County's use of the Kingston Motel as an emergency-housing facility following the safe and orderly relocation of its current residents; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that no additional individuals or families should be placed at the Kingston Motel during the preparation or implementation of the relocation and discontinuation plan; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature calls upon the Ulster County Executive and the Ulster County Department of Social Services to prepare and submit to the Clerk of the Legislature, within thirty (30) days following adoption of this Resolution, a written relocation and discontinuation plan providing for the orderly cessation of the County's use of the Kingston Motel for emergency-housing placements; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the written relocation and discontinuation plan should include, at a minimum:

- The number of individuals and households presently placed at the Kingston Motel, stated in aggregate form and without personally identifying information;
- The number and general age ranges of children presently residing at the facility;
- The duration of each household's placement, stated without identifying the household;
- The number of households that have resided at the facility for more than 30 days, 90 days, six months, one year, and two years;
- An assessment of the housing, medical, behavioral-health, disability-related, educational, transportation, child-care, and case-management needs of the individuals and families presently placed at the facility;
- A proposed schedule and target date for relocating all current residents to safe and appropriate alternative accommodations;
- The alternative emergency, transitional, supportive, or permanent housing resources that are available or are being developed for current residents;
- The County departments, agencies, nonprofit organizations, and service providers that will be responsible for assisting residents during the relocation process;
- The case-management services that will be provided to each household to facilitate placement in appropriate permanent or transitional housing;
- The measures that will be taken to avoid disruption to the education, transportation, medical care, employment, and supportive services of residents;

- The anticipated fiscal impact of discontinuing placements at the Kingston Motel and securing alternative accommodations;
- The measures that will be taken to ensure that no resident is rendered homeless or left without appropriate shelter as a result of the discontinuation plan;
- Any legal, regulatory, contractual, financial, or operational obstacles that the administration believes may delay or prevent discontinuation of the County's use of the facility, together with proposed means of addressing each obstacle; and
- A proposed final date after which the County will no longer utilize the Kingston Motel for emergency-housing placements; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the written plan should identify interim benchmarks, including the anticipated number of households to be relocated within 30, 60, and 90 days after submission of the plan; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that until all current residents have been safely relocated, the County Executive and Department of Social Services are urged to ensure that:

- Regular documented inspections of the facility are conducted;
- All applicable building, fire, property-maintenance, sanitary, and health-and-safety requirements are enforced;
- Identified violations or deficiencies are corrected promptly;
- Residents have meaningful access to case-management, medical, behavioral-health, educational, transportation, and supportive services;
- Emergency contact and response procedures are clearly established and communicated to residents; and
- The County regularly evaluates whether each resident's continued placement at the facility remains necessary and appropriate; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Social Services, or the Commissioner's designee, is requested to appear before the Housing and Transportation Committee within forty-five (45) days following adoption of this Resolution to report publicly on the implementation of the moratorium and the preparation of the relocation and discontinuation plan; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that following submission of the written plan, the Commissioner of Social Services is requested to provide monthly written progress reports to the Legislature identifying, in aggregate form:

- The number of individuals and households remaining at the Kingston Motel;
- The number of individuals and households relocated during the preceding month;
- The types of housing to which those households were relocated;
- The number of new placements made at the facility, which should be zero during the moratorium;
- Any obstacles delaying implementation of the plan; and
- Whether the administration remains on schedule to discontinue the County's use of the facility by the proposed final date; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that nothing in this Resolution shall be construed as directing the immediate eviction or removal of any person presently residing at the Kingston Motel without safe and appropriate alternative shelter; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution is intended to protect the health, safety, welfare, and dignity of the individuals and families presently housed at the Kingston Motel, while also addressing the substantial and continuing demands placed upon municipal, emergency-medical, and other public services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Ulster County Executive, the Ulster County Attorney, the Ulster County Commissioner of Social Services, the Ulster County Commissioner of Health, the Ulster County Comptroller, the Town Supervisor and Town Board of the Town of Ulster, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, and such other officials and agencies as the Clerk of the Legislature may deem appropriate.