

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 634 OF 2022

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS SEEBER, HOGAN, BRAYMER, LEGGETT AND DRISCOLL

RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO BECOME A TRUE PARTNER BY FOCUSING ON RENT ALLOWANCE AND STANDARD OF NEED WHICH MUST INCLUDE THE RESTORATION OF 50/50 COST SHARING FOR SAFETY NET PROGRAMS, AND CLARIFY ITS HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GOALS BY MAKING PERMANENT HOUSING THE CENTRAL FOCUS

WHEREAS, homelessness and housing affordability continue to be major concerns across New York State, and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the situation worse through increased rental rates, decreased housing supply and an increased reliance on temporary housing assistance in shelters and motels, and

WHEREAS, the expansion of remote work and other factors has led to rising rents in suburban areas at a rate approaching urban centers with the gap in premiums paid between urban centers and suburban areas being cut by more than 53 percent, and

WHEREAS, this means rents are higher everywhere, with the northeast region seeing the second highest rent increases nationwide with New York City setting record highs for median rent in 2022, and

WHEREAS, Emergency Rental Assistance funding provided by Congress to prevent people from losing their homes and increasing homelessness was an essential strategy as the human hardships would have been far more devastating if we had not kept people housed, and

WHEREAS, the homeless population is facing new problems as the needs of families have become more complicated, and

WHEREAS, regardless of family size and demographics, many of those facing homelessness or seeking emergency shelter can have challenging medical needs, mental health and substance abuse issues, some are registered sex offenders, and still others are state prison parolees or on probation; with some facing

RESOLUTION NO. 634 OF 2022

PAGE 2 OF 3

several of these challenges at the same time, and

WHEREAS, New York State is implementing new hotel regulations that could reduce the number of units available to homeless families and leaving county officials with very limited options that may be less effective and more expensive in managing local homeless populations, and

WHEREAS, New York State requires counties to fund 71 percent of costs for Safety Net individuals and 100 percent of the costs of administering these programs, and

WHEREAS, local social service districts focus scarce resources on achieving permanent housing, preventing homelessness and providing temporary placement, and

WHEREAS, counties maintain that preventing homelessness in the first place is the best way to keep families safe and secure, and

WHEREAS, counties maintain that while it is important to provide help in a crisis, it is better policy to maintain stability and prevent emergencies by providing sufficient resources up front, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors hereby urges the Governor and New York State Legislature to prioritize permanency in housing and to update rental allowances and the standard of need which have not been properly updated in decades to fully address the dramatic growth in housing, energy and food costs, and be it further

RESOLVED, as part of the effort New York State must restore the Safety Net state share to 50 percent, and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State should pare back or end highly burdensome hotel and motel regulations that end up limiting the supply of rooms available to counties that have little choice but to rely on this method of temporary housing, and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State should coordinate a timely transition to supportive housing for

RESOLUTION No. 634 OF 2022

PAGE 3 OF 3

the highest need individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues in collaboration with OTDA, other stage agencies, and local social services districts; especially those that have been repeatedly homeless and in need of supportive placements overseen by OMH, OASAS, OPWDD and DOCCS, and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State should target funding to counties that allows them to work with community partners to develop service models that achieve permanency through innovative and flexible approaches that meet local needs, and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State should work with counties in developing a public education campaign to ensure people better understand the plight of families and individuals struggling with homelessness and how everyone can benefit by helping them achieve stable housing in our communities, and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of New York State encouraging member counties to enact a similar resolution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature and the Office for Temporary Disability Assistance and all others deemed necessary and proper.