



# **NEWS.....**

## **FROM CHRIS HIGGINS**

### **ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATOR 6TH DISTRICT**

**HUDSON/PARK, WASHINGTON PARK, PARK SOUTH,  
CENTER SQUARE & THE MANSION NEIGHBORHOODS  
277 HUDSON AVENUE, ALBANY, NY 12210**

EMAIL: [CHRISTOPHER.HIGGINS@ALBANYCOUNTY.COM](mailto:CHRISTOPHER.HIGGINS@ALBANYCOUNTY.COM)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2010**

**CONTACT: CHRIS HIGGINS**

**(845) 797-9315**

**CTHIGGINS@GMAIL.COM**

### **COUNTY LEGISLATOR CHRIS HIGGINS INTRODUCES ENHANCED WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY FOR ALBANY COUNTY EMPLOYEES**

On Wednesday, County Legislator Chris Higgins (D- Center Square) introduced an enhanced whistle blower policy to protect Albany County's public employees. The policy would make clear that public employees who expose waste, fraud, or abuse in their respective units will not be subject to retaliation, including termination.

In recent months it has come to the legislature's attention that there are some major personnel issues and possible waste occurring in certain departments within the county. However, for fear of being retaliated upon potential whistle blowers have chosen to report abuses anonymously, or even worse not at all, for fear of losing their jobs.

Higgins stated that, "It is of the utmost importance for me and my colleagues on the legislature to have all the facts when reviewing departments for efficiency and effectiveness when it comes to serving Albany County residents. If there are instances of potential employee abuse or waste, we need to know about it, especially in light of the county's fiscal situation."

Higgins continued, "By establishing a whistle blower policy and making it clear to county employees that they will not be subject to retaliation, we can hopefully begin to shine some sunlight on potential abuses."

Specifically, the policy establishes who employees can report problems to and requires that said policy be communicated to the county workforce and posted conspicuously in every department. Additionally, the policy requires that an investigation be conducted into any allegations so that potential complaints are not swept under the rug.

The resolution will be formally introduced at the County Legislature's September meeting and referred to the personnel committee for consideration.

###