
PATTERN FOR PROGRESS

Improving the Quality of Life through Regional Solutions

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PATTERN FOR PROGRESS FORMS INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE HUDSON VALLEY DIALOGUE ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Regional Committee will Explore Commission's Recommendations

Newburgh – In concert with the report released today by the Governor's Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness, Pattern for Progress has announced the formation of a Hudson Valley based committee to continue work on the report's 76 recommendations to rein in costs.

"The ideas in the report are meant to involve larger numbers of people in the debate, and to spur action," said Pattern's president and CEO Jonathan Drapkin, who was a member of the Commission. "We know that to be successful in their implementation we need to commit effort at the local level."

Orange County Executive Edward Diana will serve as chair of Pattern's committee. "Independent of the Commission's report, I support the effort to find ways to make government more efficient," he said. "We have been working on this in Orange County, and I welcome the opportunity to broaden the discussion in the region."

Gerald Benjamin, also a member of the Governor's Commission, will serve as advisor to the committee. Benjamin is director of the new SUNY New Paltz Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach, and author of a large body of research on government restructuring. "The issues raised in the commission's report are of critical importance if we are finally to move towards a more rational way of delivering government services," he said. "We are eager to team with Pattern for Progress as a way to move to an action agenda."

The new committee will convene its first meeting in late May. Pattern for Progress and SUNY New Paltz will issue an annual progress report on measures taken by local government in the Hudson Valley to improve services delivery, whether it is shared services or consolidation of services. In addition, Pattern will sponsor a fall event to continue to share ideas and resources on a regional level.

Joining the committee in its review of the Commission's recommendations and the search for new concepts are Jonathan Rouis, chair of the Sullivan County Legislature and Sullivan County's Council of Governments; John Tully, deputy county executive of Putnam County; Jon Wagner, Town of LaGrange supervisor and head of the Dutchess County Association of Town Supervisors; Jon Valk; Town of Shawangunk supervisor and chair of the Ulster County Association of Town Supervisors; John Ward, Town of Walkkill supervisor and chair of the Orange County Association of Town Supervisors; Stefan Neuhaus, Town of Chester supervisor; Joan Pagonos, Town of Fishkill supervisor; Ira Cohen, Sullivan County treasurer; and Michael Hein, Ulster County administrator. Others wishing to participate should contact Pattern for Progress at (845) 565-4900.

Pattern for Progress is a not-for-profit policy, planning, advocacy and research organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of life for Hudson Valley residents through regional solutions. Founded in 1965 by business, academic and civic leaders, and based in Newburgh, NY, Pattern serves nine counties: Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester.

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