

VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION REGARDING AN ETHICS COMPLAINT AGAINST THE VILLAGE MAYOR FILED BY A PROJECT DEVELOPER

WHEREAS, the Village of Buchanan Code of Ethics, established under Chapter 7 of the Village Code, mandates that all village officers, including elected officials, maintain public trust and perform their duties impartially; and

WHEREAS, a formal ethics complaint has been filed with the Village Clerk by a current project developer, alleging that the Village Mayor has publicly spoken out against the developer's pending project, including expressing statements such as "I hope this project never gets approved"; and

WHEREAS, the complaint alleges that these public statements constitute impermissible pre-judgment, bias, and a violation of the standards of conduct expected of an executive official overseeing municipal development process; and

WHEREAS, because the complaint directly targets the executive leadership of the Village, an internal adjudication, review, or dismissal of this matter by the Village Board presents an inherent conflict of interest and an appearance of impropriety; and

WHEREAS, New York General Municipal Law Article 18, Section 808 explicitly authorizes a county board of ethics to review local municipal conflicts and render independent, formal advisory opinions to local governing bodies upon official request;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The remaining unconflicted members of the Village Board of Trustees hereby recuse the Mayor from all deliberations, executive sessions, votes, and administrative oversight regarding this specific ethics complaint.

SECTION 2. The Village Board of Trustees officially requests that the Westchester County Board of Ethics review the attached complaint packet and render a formal, written Advisory Opinion regarding whether the Mayor's public statements with respect to the development project constitute an impermissible conflict of interest, a disqualifying pre-judgment of a pending application, or a violation of local or state ethics standards.

SECTION 3. The Village Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution, along with the developer's complaint packet and evidence, to the Westchester County Board of Ethics, located at 148 Martine Avenue, 6th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601, within five (5) business days.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker _____

Trustee Awilda Baez _____

Trustee Anthony Capicotti _____

Trustee Steve Laker _____

Trustee Robert Wheeler _____

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of ____ to ____ .

STATE OF NEW YORK)

)SS.:

COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER)

I, Cynthia Kempter, Village Clerk of the Village of Buchanan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Buchanan at a meeting of said Board held August 4, 2026

CYNTHIA KEMPTER, VILLAGE CLERK