

RESOLUTION NO. 2026082

RE: OFFERING LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM TO ALL
ELECTED OFFICIALS IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

Legislators ARNOFF, VALDÉS SMITH, ATKINS, MUNN, ALEXANDER, BRENDLI, DRAGO, KAUL, KEARNEY, LAWLER, REDL, RHODES, SHAH and WINSBY offer the following and move its immediate adoption:

WHEREAS, in Dutchess County, all 17 law enforcement jurisdictions have implemented the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), and the County has seen firsthand the lifesaving impact of this approach; and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County experienced a sharp rise in domestic violence homicides between 2010 and 2013, with 14 deaths during that four-year period, including intimate partners, children, family members, and a responding police officer; and

WHEREAS, in response, Dutchess County began implementing the LAP in 2014, and since then the program has expanded countywide due to its demonstrated effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, in 2025 alone, 1,545 LAP screenings were conducted in Dutchess County, of which 688 individuals were identified as being at high danger for domestic violence homicide; and

WHEREAS, nineteen of those cases were determined to be at the highest level of risk and were referred to the Dutchess County High Risk Team for intensive intervention, including advocacy, safety planning, case management, and a coordinated criminal justice response; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Dutchess County further strengthened its model under the oversight of the Universal Response to Domestic Violence Steering Committee by updating the screening tool and associated training to reflect current research around stalking and strangulation; and

WHEREAS, research shows that victims who experience strangulation by an intimate partner are 750 percent more likely to be killed by that partner; and

WHEREAS, the LAP ensures that high-risk victims are not only identified but are also immediately connected with trained advocates at the scene; and

WHEREAS, this connection is critical, as victims who engage with advocacy services are significantly less likely to be killed and more likely to participate in the criminal justice process, resulting in improved outcomes, increased offender accountability, and enhanced safety for victims, law enforcement, and the community; and

WHEREAS, elected officials in Dutchess County work alongside, oversee, and legislate on matters affecting law enforcement, and therefore should understand the Lethality Assessment Program and how it operates; and

FAMILY & HUMAN SERVICES

WHEREAS, many elected officials also work with and encounter victims of domestic violence and should have the tools and training necessary to support those individuals effectively; and

WHEREAS, the Lethality Assessment Program is a structured, evidence-based tool administered by trained law enforcement personnel and domestic violence advocates, and is not intended for use by individuals outside of those professional roles; and

WHEREAS, many elected officials also work with and encounter victims of domestic violence and should have the tools and training necessary to understand the complexities of domestic violence and know where and how to refer individuals to the appropriate community resources. and

WHEREAS, elected officials are not service providers and do not perform crisis intervention or lethality assessments, but may benefit from training to increase awareness of risk factors and to facilitate appropriate referrals to qualified professionals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the scope of duties of the Universal Response to Domestic Violence Committee shall be expanded to provide training to elected officials in Dutchess County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all elected officials in Dutchess County shall be offered LAP assessment training by the Universal Response to Domestic Violence Committee, to increase awareness and understanding of domestic violence, enhance recognition of high-risk indicators, and ensure appropriate referral to qualified law enforcement and victim advocacy services, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Universal Response to Domestic Violence Committee shall include in its annual report to the legislature, the number of elected officials who participate in such trainings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this training shall be offered twice annually in the Legislative Chambers.

APPROVED
Susan J. Serino
SUSAN J. SERINO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Date May 19, 2026

STATE OF NEW YORK

SS:

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess, have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 11 day of May, 2026, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 12 day of May, 2026.



[Signature]
JULIE SHIROISHI, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

Roll Call Sheets

District	Last Name	YES	NO
District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon	Valdés Smith		
District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie	Atkins		
District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck	Munn		
District 3 - LaGrange	Polasek		
District 12 - East Fishkill	Metzger		
District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Redl		
District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie	Arnoff		
District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie	Lawler		
District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Shah		
District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Kaul		
District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley	Darrow		
District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie	Brendli		
District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie	Johnson		Absent
District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck	Kearney		
District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger	Giles		
District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie	Winsby		
District 15 - Wappinger	Faust		
District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill	McHoul		
District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill	Rhodes		
District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook	Drago		
District 21 - East Fishkill	Caswell		
District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale	Tresca		
District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill	Rolison		
District 24 - Dover and Pawling	House		
District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook	Alexander		
Present:	<u>24</u>	Resolution: <u> </u>	Total : <u>24</u> <u>0</u>
Absent:	<u>1</u>	Motion: <u> </u>	Yes No
Vacant:	<u>0</u>		Abstentions: <u> </u>

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IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

☒ NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

APPROPRIATION RESOLUTIONS

(To be completed by the requesting department)

Total Current Year Cost \$ 0 _____

Total Current Year Revenue \$ _____
and Source

Source of County Funds (check one):

☐ Existing Appropriations

☐ Contingency

☐ Transfer of Existing

☐ Additional Appropriations

☐ Other (explain)

Appropriations

Identify Line Item(s):

Related Expenses: Amount \$ _____

Nature/Reason:

Anticipated Savings to County:

Net County Cost (this year): _____

Over Five Years: _____

Are there any costs associated with this resolution that impact any cities, towns, or villages within Dutchess County? _____ (If YES, detail below or include on a separate sheet.)

Additional Comments / Explanation:

Prepared by: Emma Arnoff

Emma Arnoff

Prepared On: 6/23/26

Family and Human Services Committee Roll Call

<i>District</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon	Valdés Smith*	X	
District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie	Atkins*	X	
District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck	Munn*	X	
District 3 - LaGrange	Polasek*	X	
District 12 - East Fishkill	Metzger*	X	
District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie	Arnoff (C)	X	
District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook	Drago	X	
District 24 - Dover and Pawling	House		ABSENT
District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Kaul (VC)	X	
District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill	McHoul	X	
District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Shah	X	
District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie	Winsby	X	
Present: <u>11</u>	Resolution: _____	Total : <u>11</u>	_____
Absent: <u>1</u>	Motion: _____	Yes	No
Vacant: _____		Abstentions: _____	

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District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Redl	X	
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District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Shah	X	
District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Kaul	X	
District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley	Darrow	X	
District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie	Brendli	X	
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District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie	Winsby	X	
District 15 - Wappinger	Faust	X	
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District 21 - East Fishkill	Caswell	X	
District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale	Tresca	X	
District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill	Rolison	X	
District 24 - Dover and Pawling	House	X	
District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook	Alexander	X	

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