

RESOLUTION NO. 2026127

RE: ACKNOWLEDGING APPOINTMENTS TO THE DUTCHESS COUNTY
LEGISLATURE ANIMAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP
COMMITTEE (AWCS)

Legislators VALDÉS SMITH, MUNN, POLASEK, METZGER, ALEXANDER, ARNOFF, BRENDLI, DARROW, FAUST, GILES, KEARNEY, LAWLER, REDL, RHODES, ROLISON, SHAH and WINSBY offer the following and moves its adoption:

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2026095, adopted on June 8, 2026, the Dutchess County Legislature established the Animal Welfare and Community Stewardship Committee (AWCS); and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2026095 provides that nine (9) members of the AWCS Committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Dutchess County Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Legislature has made appointments to the AWCS Committee in accordance with the authority delegated by Resolution No. 2026095; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to acknowledge those appointments and cause them to be entered into the official record of the Legislature; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Legislature hereby acknowledges the following appointments made by the Chair of the Legislature to the AWCS Committee:

- Chair: Legislator Anna Shah
- Co-Chair: Legislator Eric Alexander
- Vice - Chair: Legislator Chris Rolison
- District Attorney's Office member: Senior Assistant District Attorney Nicholas La Stella, or designee
- Dutchess County Sheriff's Office member: Undersheriff Jason Mark, or designee
- Municipal Law Enforcement member: Chief Keith Dworkin, or designee
- Large Animal Rescue member: Deanna Hearn
- Humane Law/ACO/DCO member: Officer Ken Wallace

;and be it further

RESOLVED, that these appointments are hereby received and filed, and the Clerk of the Legislature is directed to enter them into the official record of the Legislature and to maintain the roster of the AWCS Committee membership; and be it further

PUBLIC SAFETY

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Chair of the Legislature, the members so appointed, and the Chair of the AWCS Committee.

APPROVED

Susan J. Serino

SUSAN J. SERINO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Date Aug. 21, 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 10th day of August 2026, and the same a true and correct transcript of said original Resolution and the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 11th day of August 2026.



[Signature]
JULIE SHIROISHI, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

Deanna M. Hearn

● Dover Plains, NY 12522 ●

Career Chronology

6/2008-present

Executive Director, Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue Inc., a 501(c)3 non profit horse sanctuary and equine assisted psychotherapy facility - administrative and operational responsibilities including staff, volunteers, programs, expansion and execution of the organization's mission and care of 50+ horses, fundraising and communication within the Hudson Valley Community. Additionally, responsible for the development and growth of the EquiNorth Equine Assisted Psychotherapy Program.

2019 - 2021

President Harlem Valley Chamber of Commerce

2006

Equine Regional Coordinator, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County. Managing equine competitions of horse bowl, hippology and horse communications for the 7 counties of Region 6.

5/2003-2009

Proprietor, Equine Escape Stable, a horse boarding and training facility. Administrative and operational responsibilities to manage 90 horses on two farms, client billing, and oversight of staff.

1999-2003

Barn manager or employee in various stables:

Windy Hill Farm, Millbrook, NY – Weekend care of 4 horses

Blue Sky Farm, Pawling, NY – Assistant barn manager 9 horse estate

Kildare Stables – 25 horse boarding/training facility

Thornbrook – 24 horse breeding facility

Greenawn Stables – Private 9 horse estate

Sky Blue Farm – Private 9 horse estate

Millbrook Hunt – Weekend help for 9 hunt horses

Other Related Experience:

2014 [Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce 40 Under 40 recipient Leader](#)

Dutchess County 4H Horse Club (2003 – 2023)

Member – Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit Committee

Member – [Dutchess County Animal Response Team Steering Committee](#)

2018 Member – Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce KidVenture Committee

Previous Member - Dutchess County Agricultural Committee

Member - [Equus Foundation Equine Welfare Committee](#)

Graduate – [Leadership Dutchess Class of 2017](#)

Graduate - [Executive Leadership Dutchess Class of 2021](#)

Dutchess County BOCES Careers in Animal & Plant Sciences Advisory Committee

[CHA Board Member \(January 2023 - present\)](#)

USHJA Zone 2 Nominating Committee Member

2025 Athena Award Recipient

2026 Athena Award Selection Committee

Education/Licenses:

Adult and Pediatric First Aid, CPR, AED Certified

[Animal Behavior and Welfare Certificate University of Edinburgh](#)
[Arenas for Change](#)

Basic Equine Care and Management Certificate with Distinction University of Florida

[Certified Humane Education Specialist Academy of Prosocial Learning](#)

[CHA Certified Level 2: Hunt Seat, Stock Seat, Trail and Jumping](#)

CHA Lead Site Visitor
CHA EFM Level 4
CHA EFM Trainer
County Animal Response Team – Center for Public Health Preparedness
[EAGALA Certified Equine Specialist](#)
[Equine Experiential Education Certified Practitioner](#)
Equine Nutrition Certificate University of Edinburgh
[Harmony Horsemanship Level 3 Trainer](#)
[Harmony Horsemanship Horse Handling Trainer](#)
[Leadership & Governance in Nonprofit Organizations Specialization Capstone SUNY Albany](#)
Mandated Reporter
[Natural Lifemanship Fundamentals Advanced Certification](#)
Numerous Military competency certificates via Relias and the Army One Source
Path to Promise Initiative through Dutchess County
[Positive Youth Development Trained through ACT for Youth](#)
PTSD, Domestic Violence, Suicide Awareness certificates via Relias and Army One
[Safe Sport Certified](#)
[Source Safe Talk Trained through American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)
[Youth Mental Health First Aid Certified](#)
[Mental Health First Aid Certified](#)

Maintain the following accreditations for Lucky Orphans:

[Equus Foundation Mentor](#)
[Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries Accredited](#)
[NYS Ag & Markets Permitted](#)
[NYS Office of Professions Waiver](#)
[Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance Accredited](#)
[CHA Site Accredited](#)
[USEF Community Outreach Organization](#)
[Horses for Mental Health Member](#)
[Homes for Horses Coalition Member](#)
[USHJA retirement facility](#)
[ThinkDIFFERENTLY provider](#)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

☒ NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

APPROPRIATION RESOLUTIONS

(To be completed by the requesting department)

Total Current Year Cost \$ _____

Total Current Year Revenue \$ _____
and Source

Source of County Funds (check one):

☐ Existing Appropriations

☐ Contingency

☐ Transfer of

☐ Additional Appropriations

☐ Other (explain)

Existing
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 municipality within Dutchess County? ____ (If YES, provide detail here or separately)

Additional Comments / Explanation:

Prepared by: Y Valdes Smith Prepared On: 7/17/26

KENNETH WALLACE

██████████ Wingdale, NY 12594

Phone: ██████████ | Email: ██████████

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Penal Law/ Criminal Procedural Law Knowledge
- Agriculture and Markets Law Knowledge
- Arrest procedures and use of force protocols
- Report writing and evidence handling
- Interviewing and interrogation techniques
- Conflict resolution and de-escalation
- Communication skills
- Proficient with firearms
- Defensive tactics and firearms proficiency
- Radio and communication systems
- Court testimony and legal procedures
- Arresting procedures
- Community policing and public engagement
- CPR / AED certified
- Tactical decision-making under pressure
- Active shooter training
- Dog handling
- Dog training
- Troubleshooting dog aggression
- Dog Protection training
- Animal control techniques

Leadership & Supervision

- Team supervision and personnel management
 - Training and mentoring junior officers
 - Delegation and task coordination
 - Interagency collaboration
 - Strategic thinking and problem-solving
 - High-stress decision making
 - Leading by example and morale building
 - Working closely with clients and guiding them through classroom-based instructions
 - Building relationships with humans and animals
-

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Dog Control Officer

Putnam County SPCA, Pawling, Amenia, and Dover Plains, NY

April 2024 – Present

- Dog and animal control
- Animal Cruelty Investigations related to NYS Agriculture and Markets Law
- Rehome and adopt out dogs that are seized or surrendered as necessary
- Records keeping
- Animal care and Husbandry

Security Officer

Silo Ridge Field Club – Amenia, NY

August 2024 – November 2025

- Conduct patrols and traffic control
- Respond to alarms and incidents, address member and staff concerns
- Write accurate and detailed security reports
- conduct routine checks of locking mechanisms/ assuring fire safety checks and compliance.
- AED/ CPR kits and system checks

Peace Officer

Town of Dover – Dover Plains, NY

April 2024 – Present

- Provides a police presence for Town Court/Events and traffic control
- Serves as Animal Control Officer and Humane Law Investigator
- Conducts criminal and animal cruelty investigations pertinent to NYS Agriculture and Markets Law

Dog Trainer and Behavior Consultant - Entrepreneur

Modular K9 Solutions

January 2023 – Present

- Specializes in obedience, behavioral, aggression cases, protection training, police/security dog training. Also provides insight and troubleshooting for working dog teams.
- Apply scientific behavioral studies and Cynopraxic principles to troubleshoot and solve behavioral and training issues with dogs.
- Volunteers with local shelters and rescues to assist with canine behavioral management/rehabilitation and adoptions to pet owners or agencies.
- Working K9 Training & troubleshooting, consulting with working dogs, local municipalities and law enforcement.

Dog Handler / Protection Dog Trainer

Fearless K9 – Hyde Park, NY

August 2021 – 2024

- Volunteering to Train and handle dogs in foundational and advanced protection work

Humane Law Enforcement Criminal Investigator

Ulster County SPCA – Kingston, NY

July 2022 – November 2022

- Investigations under NYS Agriculture and Markets Law
- Collaborated with local agencies on complex cases
- Animal Control

Corrections Officer

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office – Poughkeepsie, NY

January 2019 – February 2022

- Maintained custody and control of inmates
- Conducted security checks and responded to emergency incidents
- Transported inmates and served on the Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Cavalry Scout / Paratrooper - M240 Gunner

United States Army – Fort Bragg, NC

July 2009 – January 2012

- Served in the 82nd Airborne Division
 - Trained in reconnaissance, combat tactics, and a variety of weapon systems
 - Member of Task force Falcon Global Expeditionary Force, under The Department of Defense.
-

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

- **Canine Behavior & Training Course** - K9-1 Specialized Dog Training, 2021- Present
- **NYS Basic Corrections Officer Academy** - 2019
- **NYS Peace Officer Academy** - 2024
- **19D Cavalry Scout Training** - U.S. Army OSUT, 2009

REFERENCES:

Chief Brett Johnson - T/O Dover Chief Constable
[REDACTED]

Richard Yeno – Dover Town Supervisor
[REDACTED]

Ryan Hughes – Corrections Officer and Deputy at DCSO
[REDACTED]

Mark Ralton – Corrections Investigator at DCSO
[REDACTED]

Public Safety 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	X	
District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck	Kearney		ASBENT
District 15 - Wappinger	Faust	X	
District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill	Rhodes	X	
District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook	Drago (VC)		ABSENT
District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill	Rolison	X	
District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook	Alexander (C)	X	

Present: 10 **Resolution:** **Total :** 10
Absent: 2 **Motion:** **Yes** **No**
Vacant: **Abstentions:**

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 LEGISLATURE ANIMAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
 (AWCS)

Roll Call Sheets

District	Last Name	YES	NO
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 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Redl	X	
District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie	Arnoff	X	
District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie	Lawler	X	
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	
District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie	Johnson		ABSENT
District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck	Kearney	X	
District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger	Giles	X	
District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie	Winsby	X	
District 15 - Wappinger	Faust	X	
District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill	McHoul	X	
District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill	Rhodes	X	
District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook	Drago		ABSENT
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	
Present: <u>23</u>	Resolution: ____	Total : <u>23</u>	<u>0</u>
Absent: <u>2</u>	Motion: ____	Yes	No
Vacant: ____		Abstentions: ____	

CONSENT AGENDA: RESOLUTIONS 2026123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 132, 133, 135, 137