



## County of Rockland

Office of the County Executive

Office of the County Legislature

### NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: CJ Miller, (845) 638-5645

Betsy Saetre, (845) 638-5184

### County Holds Public Scoping Sessions for Comprehensive Plan Project

NEW CITY, NY – Rockland County Legislative Chairwoman Harriet Cornell and County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef have announced that the County of Rockland will hold **Public Scoping Sessions** for the Rockland County Comprehensive Plan project on **Monday, May 24, 2010**. The Sessions will take place from **3 - 5 pm and 7 – 9 pm** in the **Legislative Chambers** at the **Allison-Parris County Office Building**, 11 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY 10956. All interested residents, public agency representatives and municipal officials are invited to attend.

Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law requires that comprehensive plans follow a State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process before they are adopted. On April 20, 2010, the Rockland County Legislature declared itself the Lead Agency for the Rockland County Comprehensive Plan SEQR and determined that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be produced. The Legislature determined that the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan is a Type 1 Action and issued a Positive Declaration for the Comprehensive Plan.

“The focus of the Scoping Session is for the County to put forth the skeleton or outline of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which has tentatively been developed and invite the Public to comment on that outline, as to what may be missing or what if anything should be removed from the proposed outline,” said Cornell.

“Scoping is not a forum for the offering of specific content or suggestions that one would like to see in the Comprehensive Plan. Suggestions and comments on each of the individual draft subject chapters of the Plan – which we welcome – can be made through the Rockland County Comprehensive Plan website at [www.rccomplan.com](http://www.rccomplan.com), or by attending the next Public Workshop sessions on June 9 and September 13,” Cornell stated.

“These Scoping Sessions will provide residents with an opportunity to comment on the project’s Draft Scoping Document,” said Vanderhoef. “The Scoping Document sets forth the issues to be evaluated, analyzed and discussed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which will be prepared for the Comprehensive Plan. As a result of the Scoping process, the Draft Scoping Document may be

modified, as appropriate. We encourage those who are interested in commenting on the Draft Scoping Document to do so by attending the Scoping Sessions or submitting written comments.”

The Scoping Sessions will be introduced by Chairwoman Cornell. She will be joined by Legislator Michael Grant, legislative representative to the Comprehensive Plan Technical Advisory Committee. During the Sessions, participants will hear a presentation by BFJ Planning, the project consultants. Following the presentation, attendees may offer public comments on the Draft Scoping Document.

Interested members of the public may participate by registering to speak during the Scoping Sessions or by submitting written comments on the Draft Scoping Document. Registration to speak will begin at 2:45 pm for the afternoon Scoping Session and at 6:45 pm for the evening Scoping Session. Speakers will be asked to limit oral comments to 4-5 minutes, with additional comments accepted in writing.

The County is welcoming comments on the Draft Scoping Document through June 7, 2010. Written comments may be submitted electronically via the project website at [www.rccompplan.com](http://www.rccompplan.com) (click on the “SEQR” link), via email to [rcplan@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:rcplan@co.rockland.ny.us), or by mail to the Rockland County Legislature, Comprehensive Plan Scoping Comments, 11 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY 10956. For a copy of the Draft Scoping Document, please visit the project website at [www.rccompplan.com](http://www.rccompplan.com) (click on the “SEQR” link).

“Scoping is not a requirement of SEQR,” said Cornell, “but it is a useful process to identify topics that should be covered in the draft Environmental Impact Statement, hopefully making it concise, accurate and focused on the significant issues. It has been important to us throughout the process to create as many opportunities as possible for transparency and public input. This is another opportunity to hear from the public.”

Two of four remaining Public Workshops will also be held in June and September 2010, and a Public Hearing for the Draft Comprehensive Plan and DGEIS documents will be held in the Fall.

The Comprehensive Plan will serve as the basis for all County government planning and development issues for the next 20 years. The project process encompasses an 18-month effort which began in September 2009, and includes public workshops, meetings with Town and Village Planning Boards and elected officials, and regular meetings with a Technical Advisory Committee, the County Legislature and the County Executive.

The Comprehensive Plan project is being carried out by the Rockland County Planning Department in conjunction with the consultant team of BFJ Planning (Buckhurst, Fish and Jacquemart, Inc.) of New York, NY, along with Urbanomics of New York, NY and McLaren Engineering of West Nyack, NY.

For more information on the Rockland County Comprehensive Plan project, please refer to the project website: [www.rccompplan.com](http://www.rccompplan.com).