

WESTCHESTER COUNTY LAWMAKERS SPEAK OUT AGAINST COUNTY PROPOSAL FOR PRISON WARD AT MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL

(White Plains, NY) -- Today, Westchester County Board of Legislators Vice-Chairman Lyndon D. Williams (D-Mount Vernon) and Board Chairman Ken Jenkins (D-Yonkers) spoke out against a plan, recently announced by the Astorino administration, to begin receiving the County's prison inmates at Mount Vernon Hospital. Under this plan, New York Correct Care Solutions (NYCCS), which was selected by the Astorino to provide correctional health services to inmates at the County jail, will now contract with Mount Vernon Hospital to use the existing state facility's 14-bed prison ward for sick inmates.

The Astorino Administration has opposed or attempted to block several projects which are beneficial to Mount Vernon such as child care subsidies for low-income working families; funding for the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau that provides positive programs to keep at-risk youth off of the streets; funding for renovations at Memorial Field; and funding for housing and major economic development and job creation initiatives and programs.

"Through this plan, this Administration is sending a horrible message to our children and residents that the only program it enthusiastically supports for our community is the prison complex," said Vice-Chairman Williams. "Instead of placing obstacles in the way of Mount Vernon's progress, the Astorino Administration should be assisting the city with economic development and programs for those residents of Westchester county who are most in need."

Chairman Jenkins insistently states that the County's plan is misguided and will do more harm than good. "The Astorino administration should be working with Mount Vernon officials and the County Board to provide much-needed support for Mount Vernon's economic development through capital investment for job creation and affordable housing, they want to continue down a path that creates obstacles and impediments for cities, like Mount Vernon, to achieve its full potential."

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