



**NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF
ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE MIKE HEIN**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: James J. Hanson

September 16, 2011

845.802.3138

jhns@co.ulster.ny.us

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE HEIN WELCOMES NYS ATTORNEY GENERAL
SCHNEIDERMAN'S OFFICE HOURS AT THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING ON
SEPTEMBER 21ST AND 28TH**

The Attorney General will hold office hours in the Office of the Ulster County Executive in order to help residents with storm-related problems such as price gouging, flood insurance and delayed debt payment issues.

Kingston, NY – In the aftermath of recent storms that ravaged parts of New York, Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced his office will hold “office hours” **at the Ulster County Office Building in the County Executive’s Office on September 21st and September 28th from 10 AM to 1 PM** in order to make it easier for consumers to raise storm-related questions or problems. Attorney General’s Office officials will hold walk-in meetings for storm victims to directly address concerns related to price gouging, insurance policies and delayed debt payments, among other issues.

According to County Executive Hein, “Hurricane Irene was a devastating storm and its affects linger on in our community. It is unfortunate that there are those would take advantage our residents at a time like this. That is why I am grateful for Attorney General Schneiderman’s offer to provide office hours here in Ulster County next week and the week after. I have confidence that he will protect Ulster County residents.”

New York State law forbids retailers selling essential consumer goods and services — like food, water, gas, generators, batteries and flashlights, and services such as storm clean-up and disposal — from charging excessive prices during an abnormal disruption of the market.

Last week, Attorney General Schneiderman issued a guide to New Yorkers recovering from recent storms, including tips on how to avoid scams as they restore and rebuild their homes and businesses. The Attorney General's guide includes tips to protect consumers from scams related to home repair, clean up services and tree removal, and he's urging individuals who believe they have been scammed to contact his office at: 800-771-7755.

“After the storms have subsided and the cameras and attention disappear, people across New York will still be struggling to get back on their feet. Our regional offices are always open, but to make it even easier for storm victims, we are going directly to the communities that have been impacted,” said Attorney General Schneiderman. “Those living in affected regions are having to deal with not only the damage of the storm itself, but also with the difficulties of recovery. Whether it’s related to byzantine insurance claims or avoiding the pitfalls of overpriced repairs, storm victims need all the help they can get to navigate through this challenging process. We stand ready to assist them.”

###