



# NEWS FROM THE ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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## **COUNTY EXECUTIVE ENCOURAGES LOCAL LAND USE LEADERS TO IMPROVE THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS**

Kingston, NY – February 26, 2009 – Speaking at a Land Use Leadership Roundtable, last night, Ulster County Executive Mike Hein said, “If we are going to compete globally, it can no longer take 5 years to arrive at a yes or no decision in Ulster County.” He encouraged local land use leaders, land use professionals and interested citizens to explore new ways to streamline and improve the decision making process, without compromising environmental review or home rule authority.

“There has to be more desirable way to move the process forward and achieve better results” said Hein. “All too often, development proposals and projects get mired in an endless cycle of delay and conflict, with no predictable end in sight. The costs, in terms of time, money and community resources can be enormous and generally speaking, no one’s interests are well served. Last night’s meeting was the first in a series designed to discover what works, what doesn’t and for the County to learn how it can help everyone work more closely together and effectively achieve their goals.”

Hein noted that the County was doing its part to improve its own processes and that he had ordered all County departments, with land use review or permitting authority, to closely examine their operations with an eye toward delivering more efficient and timely results.

The Land Use Leadership Roundtable was organized by the Ulster County Planning Board and was held at the SUNY Ulster Campus, in Stone Ridge, NY. Invitees included Planning and Zoning Board members, Town Board members and Supervisors, and developers and land use professionals from the design, legal, engineering and environmental communities.

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