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24 October 2025

Sullivan County Legislature
County Government Center
100 North Street, PO Box 5012
Monticello, NY 12701

Subject: Budget and Legislative Chair

Legislature:

As the 2026 budget cycle draws near, time also fast approaches when you'll decide who'll be Chairing our county legislature for the remainder of the term. At the same time, because ripple effects of decisions from Washington will continue creating difficult challenges for county residents, I hope you keep the following in mind.

Indications are that our Adult Care Center is experiencing long-sought improvements in administration, resident care, and county employee morale since you hired a competent ACC administrator, and I have to say I very much appreciate your work in this regard.

These improvements, however, aren't merely coincidental with your hiring of an administrator – they are because of it, and there should be zero confusion on this point. Because, I assume, you continue intending to transfer the facility's Certificate of Need to your consultant, Infinite Care, I must also assume they'll present themselves as responsible for these improvements (despite failing for years delivering them) as they pursue their C.O.N. application with NYS. Further, it's long past due that you take action to recover moneys Infinite Care has for years remained in arrear to Sullivan County.

I remind you that Section 3.01 *Compensation*, in your 15 August 2021 Consulting Agreement, makes clear the terms of compensation and costs to be borne between Infinite Care and Sullivan County taxpayers. It, along with the county's quarterly reconciliation statements, indicate equally clearly the many millions \$ they owe us. Until you reckon with this fact, discussions by you on financial challenges facing our county during the upcoming budget cycle are certain to ring hollow.

If only due to challenges continuing our way from Washington – there're also other reasons – the Chair will need to spend more time outside 100 North Street advocating on behalf of all of us anywhere our collective voice needs to be heard.

It's therefore critical each of you condition your vote for the next Chair on what he or she *commits* on delivering for county residents. Will they dedicate the time necessary to successfully fulfill their role? Will they do what's required to move policy priorities across the finish line, for example, housing for our county's homeless population?

If you fail to condition your vote on commitments to address matters meaningful to county residents, know that you are part of the problem.

Finally, I remind you that you weren't forced to assume elected office; nor is our next Chair forced to assume that role. Consequences for time management conflicts between your elected responsibilities and personal affairs should not come at expense of your elected duties.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dave Colavito", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dave Colavito