

November 10, 1999

Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian County Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Honorable Members of the Board:

I am pleased to transmit the first budget of the new millennium: the proposed 2000 Operating Budget for County Operations. It is being released today-- five days ahead of schedule. While I cannot commit to this as a standard practice for future years, I am delighted this year to be able to give you and the public more time for review as you consider the complex issues on which this budget is based.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF: Tax Levy Decreases for Second Year in a Row

As you are aware, this is the second budget prepared by my administration. And, in keeping with my pledge to reduce the cost of government, *for the second successive year, we are decreasing taxes for Westchester residents.* This has been accomplished despite a \$40 million cumulative shortfall in State and Federal funding in years 1999-2000.

The 2000 Budget proposes the largest tax decrease in 25 years. This budget proposes a tax decrease of \$6,238,979, which is a 1.7% decrease in the tax levy. The proposed levy for 2000 is \$356,919,415 as opposed to the 1999 levy of \$363,158,394. This has been accomplished—

- Despite the massive loss of State and Federal aid that had been given to us previously to pay for programs the State and Federal governments have mandated and for which we have no choice, but to provide...
- Despite the continued increases in such State mandated programs as SCD (Services for Children with Disabilities) and Medicaid...
- Because of the prudent and innovative plan to securitize tobacco settlement funds, and
- Because of the continuous review and re-engineering of those programs and operations that the County provides either by charter or in its discretion to enhance the quality of life of our residents.

Please be aware that if it were not for those non-funded or under-funded mandated services, I could have decreased taxes by an additional \$25 million or 6.9%.

For example, our tax levy cost for Services for Children with Disabilities is up another \$3.9 million on top of the \$5.8 million increase last year. And our tax levy costs for the Medicaid budget after six years of stability are increasing by \$13 million. Despite these funding losses, I am pleased to note that all advocacy groups and community-based organizations, which contribute so much to our Westchester lifestyle, have been held harmless. And furthermore, I have proposed an additional 600 more child day care slots for low-income families.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF: 2000

The 1.7% decrease in tax levy proposed for 2000 required many creative solutions for difficult issues that required cuts to be made in those areas of County government that we control and that are discretionary. Moreover, in order to absorb the impact of the loss of an additional \$25 million of State and Federal aid and higher expenses imposed by the State's direct and indirect action, unfortunately, fees had to be increased or re-structured to pay for local initiatives like parks and recreation and transit services. At the same time we had to adequately fund those State and Federal mandated programs that are being under-funded by those same governments.

Vacant positions have been eliminated. The remaining positions are essential to County operations and are vacant through normal turnover. In 1999 we abolished 125 positions and in 2000 we are eliminating another 47, for a combined total of 3.3% of the total positions in County government. These reductions in large part are a result of the New York State Early Retirement Incentive Program, which I will propose again for 2000, should the State authorize one.

We have also established new administrative policies to protect our financial future. These include: the creation of a true unrestricted fund balance for the County by not appropriating all of the undesignated fund balance into the successive year's budget; and a return to a "pay as you go" policy for the replacements of Commissioners' cars, computer equipment and county-wide maintenance projects.

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT:

This proposed budget assumes that the legislation currently before your Board to securitize the back-end of our tobacco settlement will be passed. We should not place the future of our County solely at the mercy of future tobacco profits while actively working to decrease teen smoking. This legislation will provide for tax relief, enable us to spend more on anti-smoking initiatives and allow the County to establish a policy of building a fund balance to provide for unforeseen State budget cuts like those of this past year.

When the State legislature adopted the 1999-2000 State budget with their draconian cuts to County government, they used the rationale that the counties could replace the State cuts with their tobacco money. It is indeed unfortunate that we have had to do just that. Instead of giving our residents a further decrease in taxes, the proposal you have before you requires that a significant portion of the tobacco money will be used to offset State and Federal aid cuts.

However, I am firmly committed to the promise I made to spend 28% of the tobacco money we will receive in 2000 on public health and tobacco related initiatives. Therefore this budget proposes an expenditure of \$2.5 million dollars for a community and school based campaign, under the auspices of the Health Department, to reduce teen smoking. An additional \$1.5 million will be spent on other public health issues, such as mosquito control and surveillance, and public health infrastructure to ensure efficient and effective continuation of public health care services and to pay for smoking related health care services.

NEW PROGRAMS AND RE-ORGANIZATIONS:

Domestic Violence

My Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence Program continues with funding for two additional staff positions in the District Attorney's Office, the expansion of the Domestic Violence Justice Program in the Family Courts, and the addition of \$740,000 for the Probation Against Violence Unit, a previously funded grant program that helps ensure the safety of victims by providing aggressive supervision and other interventions for convicted batterers.

Department of Emergency Services

At long last, with the legislation nearing adoption by your Board, Westchester County will finally have a comprehensive and centralized Department of Emergency Services. I have included \$3.3 million for this new department, which will cost-effectively merge the emergency services previously spread throughout the Office of Fire Services, the Departments of Public Safety and Public Works, and the Westchester County Health Care Corporation. Funding for the purchase of modern training apparatus, the completion of additional classrooms and training facilities and a new state-of-the-art computerized response system will improve efficiency and response time for the safety of our homes, businesses and citizens.

Solid Waste Commission

Implementing the legislation passed this past year to insure that trash haulers engage in fair practices, and to make sure that companies doing business in Westchester are honest, I have proposed a \$1.4 million operating budget for the first year of the Solid Waste Commission. At the same time, I am sending legislation to your Board to revise the licensing fee schedule so that the Commission will operate on a self-sustaining basis and at no cost to the taxpayers, which was your Board's intent.

Human Rights Commission

In anticipation of your Board's passage of this important legislation, I have proposed \$100,000 for its start-up implementation.

Education Initiatives

I have always believed that education is the way to stop the welfare cycle. Thanks to the generosity of two private foundations, Westchester County is embarking on a unique scholarship program, called Westchester Scholars. Each year we will target 100 high school students from families on public assistance or below the poverty level to help prepare them, by giving them computers and on-line mentoring, for college scholarships. Twelve high school seniors will be selected for college scholarships each year.

I have also put in the budget \$100,000 as a challenge grant to the school districts and teacher's union for Westchester Education Coalition to further education programs related to the workplace.

Hudson River Boat Patrol

I am proposing the creation of a new Hudson River Boat Patrol in our Public Safety Department for pollution surveillance of the three-wastewater treatment plants on the Hudson River and to enforce safe watercraft operations. We are able to begin this program with the addition of two civilian Communication Operators that will free up two uniformed police officers for this new function.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

As I warned earlier this year, the impact of Albany's \$1.5 million cut to basic transit aid will cause a reduction in bus service, a consolidation of routes and the elimination of all shuttle service that does not cover its operating expenses. Asking our taxpayers to pay a subsidy of \$2,500 per passenger for shuttles is not fair. Instead, I will work with the businesses that benefit from these shuttles to determine if there is a less expensive and more effective way of providing a service.

I am also proposing a reorganization of some DOT divisions, which will not only save taxpayer dollars, but will increase efficiency. A consolidation of its telephone/information operations with the communications operators in the Department of Information Technology will save over \$111,000 and provide better service. The ParaTransit Program will be moved to the Office for the Disabled to provide a more integrated and efficient service. The savings will be an additional \$270,000.

Unfortunately, these measures cannot make up for rising costs in fuel, vehicle parts (due to our aging fleet) and bus operators' increased salaries. Therefore I have no alternative but to propose a fare increase of 10 cents. Over a ten-month period, this small increase will generate \$1.9 million.

DEPARTMENTS OF CORRECTION AND PROBATION:

Next year's budget contains \$500,000 for the start-up of a new day reporting center for non-violent, low bail inmates who are awaiting trial. This was one of the recommendations of the Correction Task Force as a means of minimizing the need for future capital construction at the jail.

I have also proposed \$250,000 for 6-months funding of a new substance abuse program for those who have been sentenced to 90 days to one year. Another Task Force Recommendation, the goal of this new drug and alcohol initiative is to educate, help these individuals deal with their drug problem, and teach life skills to prevent recidivism.

TAXPAYER FRIENDLY BUDGET:

Last year, with the assistance of Legislator Richard Wishnie, we released the premiere edition of our "Taxpayer Friendly Budget", an easy-to-read-and-understand budget summary so that all the people of Westchester would better understand how their tax dollars are being spent.

This year, we continue to make improvements in the document. They reflect the budget's three categories of programs and the tax levy for each Federal and State Programs; Charter Defined Programs; and Discretionary Programs. We will continue to make further improvement in the document, and your comments are welcome.

THE PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED:

While I am pleased that once again my budget contains a reduction in taxes, I am disappointed that the massive decrease in State and Federal funding prevented an even greater reduction. Uncontrolled State mandates are my major concern. As long as the State continues to massively under-fund such programs as Services for Children with Disabilities (SCD), our taxpayers will continue to shoulder an unfair burden. The State's pullback of other support this year--when New York State had its largest surplus—shows a lack of responsibility and a disregard for the taxpayers of Westchester. I will continue to beat on the doors of Albany until we are successful.

CONCLUSION:

For the new millennium, Westchester County remains in excellent financial health. Once again we have received a Triple A Bond Rating from all three rating agencies. The budget I submit to you today is a prudent one. It provides tax relief for our residents and contains the programs and services the people of Westchester have come to expect and deserve. Once again, we have re-organized and re-engineered services to make them more efficient and more accessible. We will continue to focus on technology as a means of further taxpayer savings.

For the past two years, Westchester County has been governed with a new spirit of cooperation. This extends not only to the relationship between the branches of government, but also to community organizations, advocacy groups, municipal officials, businesses, schools and colleges, unions, and our various ethnic groups. I view this unprecedented level of trust and harmony as a sign to the people of Westchester that they come first—that, working together, the government is here to help make life easier and better for everyone.

This administration stands ready to assist your Honorable Board in the review of my new millennium budget. I respectfully request its adoption.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew J. Spano
County Executive

**COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS REPORT
CONCERNING THE 2000 COUNTY BUDGET (additions)**

Board of Legislators
County of Westchester
800 Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Honorable Colleagues:

On Monday, October 15, 1999, County Executive Andrew J. Spano forwarded his proposed 2000 County Capital Budget which the Budget and Appropriations Committee of your Honorable Board immediately began analyzing and discussing. A month later, on Wednesday, November 11, 1999, the County Executive forwarded his proposed 2000 County Operating Budget. Having had the time to essentially complete its work on the proposed 2000 Capital Budget, your Committee on Budget and Appropriations was able to devote full attention to the proposed 2000 Operating Budget upon its arrival.

Pursuant to Section 167.81 of the Laws of Westchester County as amended by Local Law 8-1994, your Committee on Budget and Appropriations, within a specified time period, has the authority to file with the Board a memorandum of any proposed additions to the Proposed Budget.

In considering these additions, your Committee has continued a prudent and highly effective procedure that it implemented last year: **offering at the same time as additions, concurrent increases in revenue and deletions in expenditures which do not merely match but exceed these additions.** Your Committee found that this procedure significantly minimized the time spent making these deletions on the floor of the Board during the Budget adoption meeting. It also enabled the public to understand well in advance of that Meeting how any added measures, proposed or accepted, would be, at the very least, cost-neutral. Most importantly, it demonstrated in real terms, your Committee's determination to do nothing that would lessen the property tax reduction that the County Executive, commendably, included in this Proposed Budget. Indeed, as it did last year, your Committee went even further **by lowering those taxes even further.**

In keeping with Board policy, your Committee notes that any addition contained in this Memorandum, as well as any other item, may still subsequently be reduced or entirely deleted from the proposed 2000 County Budget prior to its adoption. This means that, for the second consecutive year, **the only question remaining is not whether the taxpayers of Westchester will realize a reduction in their property tax burden, but how much that reduction will be.** Your Committee will continue working until the start of the Budget Adoption Meeting to determine whether any further decreases in the budget can be responsibly made without compromising Westchester's quality and equality of life. Still, no matter what, **your Honorable Board will once more have before it for adoption a Budget consistent with its pledge to the public to lower property taxes in the County.** Once again, your Committee has taken steps to make sure that **this is the only possible action that can be taken if a budget is to be adopted.**

We should note that with this budget we are very close to adopting a budget with **the largest property tax cut in the history of Westchester County.** It will be, as well, the third time in four years that the Countywide property tax levy has been cut, a record of accomplishment equaled only by the Yankees three World Championships in the last four years!

As is its practice, during the process of considering additions, your Committee has called on various County departments and agencies to testify. It has also relied on the expertise of its auditors and has taken into account the views of all Legislators, the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, numerous groups and organizations, and individual citizens. All of these perspectives have been factored into this Memorandum, ensuring that **it is the product of government decision-making truly shared by all those it effected.**

Based on its own projections and those of reliable others, your Committee has, as noted above, increased certain revenues. In so doing, your Committee believes it has presented a more realistic assessment of the County's income position. For the last three years, your Committee has made similar cautious and reasoned adjustments to revenues and these have proven prudent.

The additions to expenditures reflect the close attention your Honorable Board has given to the voices of the larger community. Perhaps more than in any other year, the voice of the people was heard and incorporated in the budget additions. This is an affirmation of the ever-strengthening bond of participation that, on a County level, links the representatives with the represented.

Your Committee also wishes to note that it has made some specific additions that it particularly feels will enhance the well-being of Westchester residents. One of the larger allocations is to maintain bus fares at their current level and to restore bus and shuttle routes. Beyond the many who depend on our buses either for work or school, such action encourages even wider use of mass transportation and helps lessen the impact of pollution on our sensitive environment.

Your Committee has also made certain that vital underpinnings of our democratic society have been maintained and enhanced. One of these is legal aid, which helps ensure that all citizens have the right to redress through the courts. Funds have been provided for this critical service. Your Committee has also restored the monies needed to provide intervention in instances where people face eviction. This program has proven highly successful and has saved homes and lives, not to mention taxpayer dollars. With the concurrence of your Honorable Board, it will continue to do so in the year to come.

And Your Committee has gone beyond preserving housing to add the funds necessary to revitalize your Honorable Board's involvement in the area of providing fair and affordable housing for all Westchester residents. Included are monies for various housing-related programs as well as for a new Housing Needs Study for the County, one that will significantly update the Rutgers study of nearly a decade ago and which will serve as a baseline for further efforts in this important area.

Finally, Your Committee would like to note that it is, through these additions, stepping up the all-out attack on the scourge of domestic abuse and violence. Your Honorable Board has been a pacesetter in setting forth initiatives that concretize a commitment to zero-tolerance for such heinous crimes. These additions are in complete keeping with this.

Through its issuance of this Memorandum, your Committee hereby complies with the Westchester County Charter. While obviously it believes the actions contained within this Memorandum are prudent and beneficial, that evaluation must ultimately be made by your Honorable Board. Likewise, **the county tax rate can only be changed by majority of the Board when it passes a budget and/or acts on a County Executive's vetoes on specific, Charter-allowed items.**

With these understandings, your Committee hereby recommends the following additions to your Honorable Board for its full deliberation and ultimate decision:

ADDITIONS TO THE BUDGET

OPERATING BUDGET REVENUES:

FINANCE (150000)

Sales Tax	\$ 1,000,000
Fund Balance	<u>5,899,121</u>
Total	\$ 6,899,121

COUNTY CLERK – LAND DIVISION (210300)

Departmental Income (9050)	\$ <u>350,000</u>
Total	\$ 350,000

SOCIAL SERVICES (228900)

Federal Aid (9800)	\$ <u>1,800,000</u>
Total	\$ 1,800,000

HEALTH (270000)

State Aid (9700)	\$ <u>18,000</u>
Total	\$ 18,000

CORRECTIONS (350000)

Departmental Income (9050)	\$ <u>450,000</u>
Total	\$ 450,000

TRANSPORTATION – BUS OPERATIONS (442100)

Departmental Income (9050)	\$ 750,000
State Aid (9700)	2,680,000
Federal Aid (9800)	<u>125,000</u>
Total	\$ 3,555,000

TOTAL REVENUE ADDITIONS \$ 13,054,121

OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES:

BOARD OF LEGISLATORS (100000)

Contractual Services (4380)	\$ <u>150,000</u>
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To better enable the Board to perform its charter-set oversight responsibilities

TOTAL BOARD OF LEGISLATORS \$ 150,000

BOARD OF ELECTIONS (140000)

Annual Regular (1010)	\$ 100,000
Employee Benefits (521650)	<u>30,000</u>

To fund (2) Program Administrators Grade XII
to keep pace with demand on the Board

TOTAL BOARD OF ELECTIONS	\$ 130,000
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OFFICE FOR THE AGING (110500)

Comprehensive Program for the Aging (4957)	<u>\$ 95,000</u>
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To provide legal services for the elderly

TOTAL OFFICE FOR THE AGING	\$ 95,000
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (110700)

Technical Services (4420)	<u>\$ 400,000</u>
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To help in the cultivation and expansion of small
business enterprises within Westchester County.

TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 400,000
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OFFICE FOR WOMEN (110900)

Contractual Services (4380)	\$ 175,000
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To increase the number of County-wide slots
for infant and toddler day care

Contractual Services (4380)	35,000
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To increase child care in the New Rochelle Family
Court and bring it onto a par with similar services
offered in the White Plains and Yonkers Family Courts

Contractual Services (4380)	<u>60,000</u>
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To provide an on-site Counselor-Advocate at the Sound
Shore Medical Center to deal with domestic violence
cases and to serve as a replicable model program

TOTAL OFFICE FOR WOMEN	\$ 270,000
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (160000)

Technical Services (4420) \$ 25,000

To implement a system to track the handling of child abuse cases and head off potential problems

TOTAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY \$ 25,000

PLANNING (190000)

Technical Services (4420) \$ 145,000
Technical Services (4420) 75,000

To fund the Westchester/Putnam Legal Services eviction prevention and housing resettlement program and to provide for 2.25 additional staff members for this program

Technical services (4420) 18,000

To fund a continuing education program for Co-op boards, residents, and managing agents that would address financial and fair housing issues

Technical Services (4420) 25,000

To fund a new Housing Needs Assessment

TOTAL PLANNING \$ 263,000

COUNTY CLERK (210000)

Annual Regular (1010) \$ 111,700
Employee Benefits (521650) 33,510

To fund (1) Senior County Clerk Grade VI and (2) Assistant Deputy County Clerks Grade X for plumbing and electrical license enforcement

Hourly (1200) 35,000

To fund (3) more hourly employees

Overtime (1400) 100,000

To help keep apace of the heavy processing needs of the office

Travel & Meals (4110) 5,000

To fund travel and meals relative to increased Overtime demands

Fleet Management (5160)	<u>28,000</u>
To provide transportation for (2) Assistant Deputies to make on-site Inspections	
TOTAL COUNTY CLERK	\$ 313,210
SOCIAL SERVICES (220000)	
Indirect Services (5960)	\$ 75,000
To fund a coordinated outreach program for Westchester's Hispanic community	
Indirect Services (5960)	18,000
To further the Department's efforts in combating child abuse	
Indirect Services (5960)	<u>50,000</u>
To fund an arts program for Social Services clients	
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICE	\$ 143,000
CONSUMER PROTECTION (250000)	
Annual Regular (1010)	\$ 39,825
Employee Benefits (521650)	<u>11,948</u>
To fund a Household Hazardous Chemical Compliance Inspector Grade IX	
TOTAL CONSUMER PROTECTION	\$ 51,773
HEALTH (270000)	
Annual Regular (1010)	\$ 37,495
Employee Benefits (521650)	11,249
To fund a Health Inspector Grade X	
Hourly (1200)	50,000
For staffing at the Rye Brook Pediatric Center	
Neighborhood Health Centers (4370)	300,000
To provide a higher level of funding for the County's various health centers	

Mosquito Program (4358) 50,000

To increase the testing and other measures to help prevent West Nile and other mosquito-borne diseases

Tobacco Control Program (4359) 125,000

To restore the funding for this program

TOTAL HEALTH \$ 573,744

CORRECTION (350000)

Drug Treatment Program (4230) \$ 125,000

To fund a drug treatment/counseling program commencing 4/1/2000

TOTAL CORRECTION \$ 125,000

PROBATION (390000)

Annual Regular (1010) \$ 44,280
Employee Benefits (521650) 14,170

To fund (1) Probation Officer Grade XI

Contractual Services (4380) 33,000

To fund a men's domestic violence program

TOTAL PROBATION \$ 91,450

PARKS, RECREATION & CONSERVATION – COUNTY CENTER (427150)

Hourly (1200) \$ 100,000

To fund maintenance workers

TOTAL PARKS \$ 100,000

TRANSPORTATION (442100)

Bus Operating Assistance (4924) \$ 4,108,275

To prevent a bus fare increase and restore Bus and shuttle routes

Printing and Office Supplies (3600) 50,000

To produce maps and other materials relative
to restored bus and shuttle routes

TOTAL TRANSPORTATION \$ 4,158,275

PUBLIC WORKS (460000)

Advance to Grants (4912) \$ 2,000

To fund a drowsy driver safety program

Contractual Services (4380) 7,500

For maintenance at the Michaelian Office Building

TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS \$ 9,500

MISCELLANEOUS (520000)

Legal Aid (2085) \$ 700,000

Westchester Cooperative Extension Service (2170) 50,349

Employee Benefits (1650) 100,877

Health Insurance (1680) 250,000

Crime Victims Assistance (2040) 30,000

Human Rights Commission (2067) 200,000

Westchester Library System (2180) 100,000

Special Studies (2120) 152,000

Arts In Westchester Supplemental 150,000

Hudson River Museum Supplemental 44,000

Westchester Community Initiative 500,000

To better reflect the funding needs of various items
within this diverse yet critical grouping.

TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS \$ 2,277,226

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ADDITIONS \$ 9,075,301

CAPITAL BUDGET

**BLR03 Expansion and renovation of
Labs and Research** \$ 1,335,000

Because of the additional revenues that the
expanded/renovated facility would yield, it was
deemed prudent to move this project along on a faster track

**B0021 Modernization of the Michaelian
Office Building** 1,100,000

Because of pressing needs to finish making certain floors computer-ready and to reduce heating/cooling loads thereby cutting costs, more funding has been added for this project

RB015 Renovation of a County Road 650,000

This is to improve the safety and travel conditions on North Ridge Street in Rye Brook

TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET ADDITIONS \$ 3,085,000

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Refuse Disposal District No. 1 – Administration (607100)
Contractual Services (4380) \$ 15,000

For quality assurance and verification by the local surrounding communities of County air, soil and water monitoring at the Sprout Brook Ash Pit.

TOTAL SPECIAL DISTRICT ADDITIONS \$ 15,000

Dated: December 6, 1999
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS REPORT CONCERNING THE 2000 COUNTY BUDGET (deletions)

Honorable Board of Legislators
County of Westchester
800 Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Honorable Colleagues:

On Monday, October 15, 1999, County Executive Andrew J. Spano forwarded his proposed 2000 County Capital Budget which the Budget and Appropriations Committee of your Honorable Board immediately began analysis and discussion. A month later, on Wednesday, November 11, 1999, the County Executive forwarded his proposed 2000 County Operating Budget. Having had the time to essentially complete its work on the proposed 2000 Capital Budget, your Committee on Budget and Appropriations was able to devote full attention to the proposed 2000 Operating Budget upon its arrival.

Your Committee held two hearings on the proposed budget, the first on Wednesday evening, November 17, 1999 in New Rochelle and the second on Monday evening, November 22, 1999 in Ossining. Further, your Honorable Board held the public hearing required by our Charter on Monday evening, December 6, 1999, in our chambers. These hearings allowed hundreds of people to express their views on all aspects of the budget as proposed.

In addition, your Committee has benefited from the testimony of Commissioners and heads of major departments, as well as from analysis of the proposed budgets by our auditors, Bennett Kielson Storch Yablon & De Santis, LLP which presented its report to your Committee on Thursday, December 9, 1999.

On Monday, December 6, 1999, pursuant to Section 167.81 of the Westchester County Charter as amended by Local Law 8-1994, your Committee on Budget and Appropriations filed a memorandum of proposed additions to the proposed 2000 Budgets. As was the case last year, the additions to the Budgets did not result in a tax levy increase. This meant, as the Memorandum also stated, that **the only question remaining is not whether the taxpayers of Westchester will realize a reduction in their burden, but how much that reduction will be.** Today, having further considered the proposed Budget and the needs of those who live and work in Westchester, your Committee is proposing to decrease spending by another \$172,591, reducing the tax levy an additional .05% to a total of 1.77%. This means that your Committee **has taken the largest tax decrease in 25 years, as proposed by the County Executive, and lowered it even further.** Your Committee wishes to note that **this is the second consecutive year that it has accomplished this on behalf of your Honorable Board.** It also wishes to note that **this was accomplished without sacrificing programs that are aimed at improving the lot of those among us who are in need, whether they be the young, the elderly, or those who exist on the margins of our society.** At the same time, your Committee has taken great pains to ensure that those components that generally are considered critical to much-envied Westchester's quality of life have either been maintained or enhanced.

With this in mind, your Committee commends the following for your consideration.

DELETIONS TO BUDGET

OPERATING BUDGET REVENUES:

Finance (150000)

Tobacco Revenues \$ 6,687,121

This reflects a readjustment of the amount that the County is to receive

Total Finance \$ 6,687,121

TOTAL REVENUE DELETIONS \$ 6,687,121

OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (160000)

Technical Services (4420) \$ 25,000

The Department has advised that child abuse tracking could be covered by existing allocations

Interest on Bonds (4463) 101,166

Deleted upon the advice of the Board's auditors

TOTAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY \$ 126,166

EMERGENCY SERVICES (200000)

Water (3180) \$ 20,000

To correct, without jeopardizing fire hydrant work, an overestimate of funds needed to supply water for the Fire Training Center

TOTAL EMERGENCY SERVICES \$ 20,000

SOCIAL SERVICES - RELIEF (220000)

Indirect Services (5960)
Social Welfare Arts Program \$ 50,000

The Department has advised that this could be covered by existing allocations

TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES \$ 50,000

HEALTH – SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (272700)

Education & Transportation Program (4532) \$ 235,000

Deleted upon the advice of the Board's auditors

State Aid (9700) 115,000

This represents the corresponding reduction
in State Aid associated with the above deletion

SEIT (4534) 100,000
Related Services (4535) 150,000
SCD-4410 Transportation (4539) 150,000
Early Intervention (4541) 100,000

Deleted upon the advice of the Board's auditors

HEALTH (270010)

Technical Services (4380) 300,000

This deletion of the Neighborhood Health Centers
Contingency Fund is done in light of the addition made
for the Neighborhood Health Centers and thereby
eliminates any duplication

TOTAL HEALTH \$ 1,035,000

PARKS, RECREATION & CONSERVATION – PLAYLAND (425510)

Interest on Bonds (4463) \$ 25,642

Deleted upon the advice of the Board's auditors

TOTAL PARKS, RECREATION & CONSERVATION \$ 25,642

DEBT SERVICE (510000)

Interest on Bonds (4463) \$ 224,465

Deleted upon the advice of the Board's auditors

TOTAL DEBT SERVICE \$ 224,465

MISCELLANEOUS (520000)

Certiorari (2020) \$ 200,000

This deletion is based on a more accurate estimate of need provided by the Administration

6J Contribution (4945) 1,000,000

This deletion is made on the advice of the Board's auditors

Health Insurance (1680) 250,000

This deletion is based on a more accurate estimate of need provided by the Administration

Water Agency (2160) 46,619

This represents the reduction needed to bring the Water Agency Budget and the Miscellaneous Budget into balance as a result of Water District #4 not being abolished

TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS \$1,496,619

TOTAL EXPENDITURE DELETIONS \$2,977,892

SPECIAL DISTRICT OPERATING EXPENDITURE DELETION

PEEKSKILL SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT (601610)

Non Recurring (4310) \$ 50,000

After careful review, Your Committee finds this deletion warranted

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Having completed its work on the proposed 2000 County Budget, your Committee wishes to offer some remarks and advice stemming from its experiences.

Once again, the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee contributed a massive amount of talent and time throughout the year, providing your Honorable Board with invaluable advice. While the efforts of this dedicated group of men and women are invisible to the public, the benefits that result are not. All those who live and work in Westchester owe this outstanding group of volunteers a great debt of gratitude.

Besides again presenting a budget with a tax decrease, the Administration is to be commended for its on-going efforts to make the budget and the budget process more open and understandable to the citizens of Westchester. Never before has so much budgetary data and explanatory material been so readily available in such a user-friendly form to those who sought it. The use of contemporary information technology, and the Internet in particular, as a prime delivery system has significantly increased the degree of public involvement with its County government's finance. Your Committee urges that this already firm foundation continue to be built upon in successive years. It also repeats its call for the Administration to continue work on implementing a true programmatic County budget.

On the subject of information technology, your Committee has, both in this budget, and throughout the course of the year, recommended funds needed to dramatically enhance this key component of government. Such a commitment, your Committee believes, will yield many benefits, some of which could help increase revenues. For example, your Committee would recommend that the Administration intensify the use of its Geographic Information Systems – GIS – to bolster economic development in Westchester. Further, given the informational infrastructure which is being put into place, your Committee requests the Administration explore, with the cooperation of your Honorable Board, the establishment of such things as high tech and e-commerce corridors in Westchester.

Your Committee also asks that your Honorable Board lend its full attention and, where warranted, support to new or revitalized initiatives, the seeds of which have been planted in this budget. These include treatment and counseling to lift the burden of the addicted and their consequent burden on society. And they include finding ways to provide affordable housing for all segments of our population.

In closing, your Committee of course cannot help but note that this is the last County Budget of this century and of this millennium. Such an occasion would call for words of particular wisdom. In its search to provide these, your Committee went back to the 1899 Proceedings of the then Westchester County Board of Supervisors. Surely, your Committee felt, this predecessor body would have wise words to offer as the Twentieth Century dawned. But the Minutes of December 27, 1899 show no extraordinary notice of events. Rather there is the recounting of the day-to-day business of Westchester entrusted to the Supervisors and adjournment to January 2, 1900. And at that meeting, again nothing of high significance is offered – merely the recording of the mundane workings of government.

Perhaps the wisdom your Committee sought in words from that time is found in their absence. The dawning of a new century and this new millennium will bring nothing in and of itself. This event is merely a click of the clock. What happens will be the result of what people make happen. Your Committee has already made happen the most dramatic tax decrease in modern memory, one it believes will make a significant difference in the lives of County residents. This action is our wise words. And now we should move on to a new term and new tasks, where, following the example of 100 years ago, we should be low in voice and loud in action. In this spirit, and with this commitment, let us go on to forge the happenings of our new century, of our new millennium.

Dated: December 13, 1999
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

**MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1999**

ACT 212-1999 (AS AMENDED): COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS: Adopting the Westchester County Budget and making appropriations for the conduct of County government for the year 2000.

Mr. Wishnie presented Act 212-1999.

The Legislators then presented Floor Amendments to the 2000 Westchester County Budget and a transcript of those amendments follows:

The following is a true transcript of the Floor Amendments that were made and adopted, or made and defeated, as indicated with regard to the 2000 Proposed County Budget by the Westchester County Board of Legislators in Session on Monday, December 13, 1999.

1. A motion was made by Legislator Noto, seconded by Legislator Mosiello, to delete from the Additions to the Budget \$330,000 from Line 2085 - Legal Aid.

This motion was defeated by a vote of 13-4 with Legislators Noto, LaMotte, Maisano and Mosiello being recorded in the affirmative.

2. A motion was made by Legislator Noto, seconded by Legislator Mosiello, to delete from the Additions to the Budget \$500,000 from the Miscellaneous Budget – Westchester Community Initiative.

This motion was defeated by a vote of 11-6 with Legislators Noto, Carsky, LaMotte, Maisano, Mosiello, and Spreckman being recorded in the affirmative.

3. A motion was made by Legislator Wishnie, seconded by Legislator Kaplowitz, to delete from the Additions to the Budget from the Health Department from the Annual Regular Account (1010) \$37,495 for the position Health Inspector– Grade X, benefits (521650) in the amount of \$11,249 and \$18,000 from State Aid (9700).

This motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Wishnie again presented the act as amended and moved that the report be received, filed and approved, and the act adopted, which motion was carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislators: Abinanti, Noto, Bronz, Carsky, Kaplowitz, LaMotte, Maisano, Mosiello, Oros, Pinto, Ryan, Spreckman, Stewart-Cousins, Swanson, Wishnie, Young, Chairman-17.

Mr. Wishnie, seconded by Mr. Abinanti, made a motion to reconsider the vote just taken on Act 212-1999 (as amended) in the hope that it be Defeated, which motion was Defeated 17-0.

ACT 213-1999: (AS AMENDED): COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS: Fixing, Determining and Levying County Taxes: Fixing and determining the amounts of the County and Special District Taxes for 2000 and levying such amounts upon the real property liable therefor.

Mr. Wishnie presented Act 213-1999.

Mr. Wishnie presented Act 213-1999 as amended and moved its adoption, which motion was declared carried by the following vote.

AYE: Legislators: Abinanti, Noto, Bronz, Carsky, Kaplowitz, LaMotte, Maisano, Mosiello, Oros, Pinto, Ryan, Spreckman, Stewart-Cousins, Swanson, Wishnie, Young, Chairman-17.

NAY: None.

Mr. Wishnie, seconded by Mr. Young, made a motion to reconsider the vote just taken on Act 213-1999 (As Amended) in the hope that it be Defeated, which motion was defeated 17-0.

On Motion of Legislator Latimer, the Board adjourned.

ACT NO. 213 – 1999 (As Amended)

AN ACT fixing and determining the amounts of the County and Special District Taxes for 2000 and levying such amounts upon the real property liable therefor,

Be it enacted by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. The amounts of the County and Special District Taxes for 2000 resulting from the County Budget are hereby fixed and determined as indicated below:

County of Westchester:	
County Operating Purposes	\$335,839,828
County Share of MTA	20,876,252
Blind Brook Sanitary Sewer District	3,660,000
Bronx Valley Sanitary Sewer District	10,740,000
Central Yonkers Sanitary Sewer District	748,000
Hutchinson Valley Sanitary Sewer District	3,776,000
Mamaroneck Valley Sanitary Sewer District	11,000,000
New Rochelle Sanitary Sewer District	6,646,000
North Yonkers Sanitary Sewer District	2,300,000
Ossining Sanitary Sewer District	3,800,000
Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District	3,000,000
Port Chester Sanitary Sewer District	3,597,000
Saw Mill Valley Sanitary Sewer District	9,970,000
South Yonkers Sanitary Sewer District	660,000
Upper Bronx Valley Sanitary Sewer District	800,000
County Water District No. 1	570,000
County Water District No. 2	1,330,000
Refuse Disposal District No. 1	43,135,000

Section 2. The foregoing amounts are hereby levied and assessed upon the real property liable therefor in the County, and in the several special districts indicated.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect January 1, 2000.

DATED: December 13, 1999
White Plains, New York

ACT NO. 212 - 1999 (As Amended)

AN ACT adopting the County Budget and making appropriations for the conduct of the County Government for the year 2000.

Be it enacted by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. The accompanying County Budget including the current plan and the capital program for the County of Westchester and the several districts therein, as listed below, is hereby adopted for the fiscal year Two Thousand:

County of Westchester	
Environmental Facilities, Department of	Saw Mill Valley Sanitary Sewer District
Blind Brook Sanitary Sewer District	South Yonkers Sanitary Sewer District
Bronx Valley Sanitary Sewer District	Upper Bronx Valley Sanitary Sewer District
Central Yonkers Sanitary Sewer District	North Yonkers Pump Station
Hutchinson Valley Sanitary Sewer District	Joint Treatment Plant (Yonkers)
Mamaroneck Valley Sanitary Sewer District	Water Agency
New Rochelle Sanitary Sewer District	County Water District No. 1
North Yonkers Sanitary Sewer District	County Water District No. 2
Ossining Sanitary Sewer District	County Water District No. 3
Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District	County Water District No. 4
Port Chester Sanitary Sewer District	Refuse Disposal District No. 1

Section 2. During the Calendar Year 2000, the Commissioner of Finance shall verify and provide the Board of Legislators quarterly with a statement of the County's cash flow for the General Fund.

Section 3. The several amounts specified in the above mentioned budget under the column heading "Allowed 2000" or so much of such amount as shall be sufficient to accomplish the purposes designated are hereby appropriated for such purposes under the following general classifications:

- Personal Service (Code 1)
- Purchase of Equipment (Code 2)
- Materials and Supplies (Code 3)
- Expenses (Code 4 and 5)
- Relief (Code 5)
- County Debt Service (Agency 51)
- Miscellaneous (Agency 52)
- Capital Projects
- Special Certiorari and Contingency
- Reserve Fund (Agency 53)
- PBC Credit Support (Agency 54)

Section 4. Within 30 days after the close of the Second Quarter and the Fourth Quarter for the Calendar Year 2000, the Commissioner of Finance shall verify and provide the Board of Legislators with:

- (i) A combined statement of the County's cash balances for all accounts
- (ii) A statement of the County's cash balances for all enterprise funds

Section 5. The positions shown in the budget are hereby authorized, created and/or continued and the number appearing on the line items of the positions shall be the number of positions under such title.

Section 6. All elective officers, appointive officers and other positions are to be paid at salaries set in accordance with the provisions of the personnel rules and amendments thereto adopted by this Board and may be filled only in accordance with procedures approved by the County Executive.

Section 7. Where personal service is required to accomplish the intended purpose of an appropriation, such personal service may be employed in accordance with the provision of the personnel rules and amendments thereto adopted by the Board, when approved and allocated by the Budget Director.

Section 8. Any position shown in the budget with the word "abolish" following the same is hereby abolished.

Section 9. Where a title of a position appearing in the budget is followed by a second title in parenthesis, the title of such position, subject to the provision of the civil service law and the personnel rules, is hereby changed from that appearing in parenthesis to the title immediately preceding it.

Section 10. Where personnel are employed under a trust or grant, such employment shall terminate at the expiration of the funds provided by the trust or grant.

Section 11. The Commissioner of Finance is hereby authorized to advance from funds on hand to Year 2000 Budget accounts such amounts as may be required, pending receipt of taxes and/or other revenues.

Section 12. Transfer of appropriations between departments are made upon the prior recommendation of the County Executive with the prior authorization of the County Board of Legislators.

Section 13. Transfer of appropriations between general classifications of expenditures within the same department are made with the prior authorization of the County Executive on the recommendation of the Budget Director and with the prior approval of the Committee of the County Board designated by resolution of such Board.

Section 14. The "Trusts" section presented after the operating budget of a department is provided for informational purposes only. Adoption of this budget act shall not be considered to be acceptance of any grant requiring the expenditure of County funds.

Section 15. The invalidity of any provisions, paragraphs, or portions of this Act shall have no effect upon the validity of any other part or portion hereof. Should any provision(s) of this Act be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or for any reason unenforceable, the remainder shall nonetheless be of full force and effect.

Section 16. This Act shall take effect January 1, 2000.

Dated: December 13, 1999
White Plains, New York

GENERAL EXPLANATION OF THE COUNTY'S BUDGET FORMAT

The format of the County's budget is determined primarily by Chapter 167 of the Westchester County Charter and Local Law No.-4-1986. Accordingly, the County Budget consists of:

County Current Operating Budget (Section C), which provides funds for current governmental services.

Westchester County Airport Special Revenue Fund (Section D) which provides funds for current operations of the County Airport.

District Current Operating Budget (issued as a separate document), which provides funds for current operations of county-managed sewer, water and solid waste districts.

Capital Budget, issued as a separate document, which provides funds for long-term physical improvements, i.e., the acquisition or construction of buildings, roads, etc.

A summary document for County and Districts Operating and Capital Budgets, the "Taxpayer Friendly Budget", is available without charge, as an information document for the public. (There is a charge for the Operating and Capital documents to cover the cost of publication.)

The Community College Operating and Capital Budget, as established by Local Law No. 4-1986, is adopted in August of each year and is issued as a separate document at that time.

Supplementary and explanatory information for the County and for the Airport Special Revenue Fund is provided in the following sections of the budget document:

- A - Budget Message by the County Executive which reviews the budget development policy and highlights the budget's major aspects; enabling Acts.
- B - Summaries of the County current operating budgets, expenditures and revenues, and supporting schedules.
- C- Operating Budgets, including trusts and grants for informational purposes.
- D- Airport Special Revenue Fund established January 1, 1998.
- E - Salary scales in effect at the time of budget submission.

The County Operating Budget is supported by a combination of Federal and State aid, departmental revenues from fees and charges for services, a County-wide tax on real property, reduced by the proceeds of the 1.5% basic County-wide sales tax, and the County's 1/3 share of a 1% sales tax levied in the towns and cities of Peekskill and Rye (2/3 balance is shared with towns, cities of Rye and Peekskill, villages and school districts), a Hotel Occupancy Tax, Motor Vehicle Use Fee and balances and reserves from prior years' operations (surplus or fund balance), and other miscellaneous revenues.

District Operating Budgets are supported by a district tax on real property within the boundaries of the district serviced, limited state aid, balances and reserves from prior years' operations, charges to other budgets or funds for services rendered, fees collected for special services to the public and other miscellaneous revenues.

The Capital Budget is financed by direct contributions from both county and district current operating budgets, federal and state aid, municipal or private contributions, and borrowing. The amortization and interest charges resulting from approved borrowing are provided for in the debt service sections of the appropriate county and district current operating budgets in the years in which payments are due.

The County's fiscal year is January 1st through December 31st except for the Community College where the fiscal year is September 1st through August 31st. The appropriations for current operating budgets expire at the end of each fiscal year. Any excess of revenues over expenditures is used to finance subsequent budgets. Capital budget appropriations, however, do not expire until the project is completed or otherwise ended.

County and district budgets have the same basic detail. Each department or district is captioned with the name of the unit, followed in parenthesis by a code number unique for that unit. Appropriations are subdivided to show Personal Service (Annual Regular and Other Personal Service), Purchase of Equipment, Materials and Supplies, Expenses, Expenditure Transfers and Reimbursements, Relief and Debt Service. Within these categories is a further breakdown showing the objects of expenditures. Five columns of information are provided from left to right. They are:

"Expended", showing the actual expenditures for the last completed fiscal year.

"Projected", representing estimates only of current year end figures based upon financial data for eight months of the current year. These estimates do not include post closing adjustments and/or audit adjustments to expenditures or revenues which occur each year as a result of the examination of the County's financial records by the independent auditors only when the fiscal year is "closed out." Traditionally post closing and other audit adjustments have substantially changed the County's actual year end position when compared to the projected year end position.

"Appropriated", showing the amounts allotted in the current budget for each account as of September 30 of the year in which the budget is presented by the County Executive to the Board of Legislators. It thus represents the budget as originally adopted but with all amendments and transfers subsequently made up through October 20, 1998.

"Requested", lists the amounts requested by each department for the ensuing fiscal year.

"Allowed", represents in the Proposed Budget the amounts recommended to be allowed by the County Executive and in the Adopted Budget the amounts actually appropriated or allowed by the Board of Legislators for the ensuing year.

The Personal Service section shows position titles, the job groups in the pay plans to which those positions are allocated, and the numbers of each position. To determine the compensation of a particular position, find the Roman numeral job group next to the position title. Then, using the salary scales printed at the end of the budget document, find the corresponding Roman numeral job group and applicable salary scale. Salaries of flat-rated positions are shown opposite their respective titles. The salaries of elected officials have been budgeted at the maximum of the job group indicated. The actual compensation paid is dependent upon appropriate provision of law.

The appropriations for Annual-Regular in the Requested and Allowed columns reflect the salary scales in effect and the compensation for which the incumbents of the titles are eligible at the time the budget is prepared. Savings have been taken to reflect part-year increments to produce the total appropriation required. Adjustments may be made to reflect funding for current union contracts. Certain annualized positions are budgeted under expenses. County-wide position totals in all categories by department are presented in tabular form in Section B.

The Capital Budget which is issued as a separate document details the amount authorized and/or appropriated for the current and past year for each of the capital projects and the amount allowed for the ensuing year. The total of these amounts may not be the ultimate cost of these projects, but only that which is appropriated during the particular years cited. The method of financing these appropriations is shown in a similar manner. In addition, the County's capital and debt policies are enumerated in the Capital Budget introduction.

The Statement of Pending and Proposed Capital Projects consolidates information concerning estimated ultimate total cost, funds appropriated and expended to date, amounts allowed in the newly adopted budget as well as the financing. As required by the Charter, the Planning Board recommendations concerning each project are noted. The report of the Capital Projects Committee is also included.

In addition, a summary table of the Capital Budget expenditures and planned financing is presented to aid in analysis.

In 1991, the State Legislature authorized an additional one percent sales tax for the County on localities outside the cities and a corresponding spending cap limitation on all County non-mandated expenditures for fiscal years 1992 through 1996. This authorization has been extended through 2003. The County's budgets for the years 1992 through 2000 comply, in all respects, with the spending cap limitation.

Kathleen M. Carrano
Budget Director

WESTCHESTER COUNTY ORGANIZATION CHART

