

CITY OF KINGSTON
Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission
planning@kingston-ny.gov

L+R

Suzanne Cahill, Planning Director



Steven T. Noble, Mayor

November 25, 2024

Ald. At large Andrea Shaut, President
City of Kingston Common Council
City Hall – 420 Broadway
Kingston, Ny 12401

RE: 265 Fair Street – Fireman's Museum of Kingston
Lease Agreement

Dear President Shaut:

As you are aware, our office has taken on a role in working with and supporting the Volunteer Fireman's Museum in uptown Kingston as one of our city-owned and operated historic facilities which promote the history and heritage of the community. This is to request consideration by the Common Council to authorize the mayor to enter into a lease agreement, or possibly a Memorandum of Understanding, with the Volunteer Fireman's Museum, who occupies and facilitates the public museum at 265 Fair Street. The property is owned by the City of Kingston, and we work directly with the group to assist in the regular care and maintenance of the structure, but the organization, which is a 501 C3 Not for Profit, runs it and is on site daily. A prior lease agreement has expired, and it is in the best interest of the City and the organization to renew the arrangement to set forth responsibilities and minimize liabilities.

The City Corporation Counsel Office is currently working to draft language that would update the prior instrument and that will be submitted to you in advance of the assigned Committee's review. We are looking at applying for a grant and need to demonstrate a valid lease for the premises as one of the application conditions. Given the timing of that submission, I respectfully ask that you refer this matter, and I will work directly through you, along with the Committee Chair, to make sure the information is provided.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact this office.

Regards,

Suzanne Cahill
Planning Director

Cc: S. Noble, Mayor
E. Tinti, City Clerk
B. Graves-Poller, Corp Counsel
M. Jankowski, Assist. Corp. Counsel
M. Berthiaume, Pres. Fireman's Museum Board
N. Kikel, Grants Manager

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CITY OF KINGSTON
Office of the Comptroller
comptroller@kingston-ny.gov

John Tuey, Comptroller



Steven T. Noble, Mayor

November 19, 2024

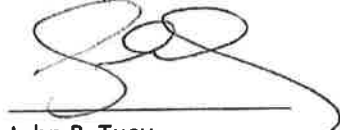
Alderman at Large Andrea Shaut
City of Kingston Common Council
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401

RE: Improper Practice Charge

Dear Alderman at Large Shaut,

In September 2024, I put you in touch with our outside labor counsel to discuss an outstanding Improper Practice Charge filed by CSEA. I understand that you wish to invite outside labor counsel to discuss the matter with a committee of the Common Council. Please accept this letter as a formal communication on the matter.

Sincerely,



John R. Tuey
Comptroller, City of Kingston

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Tinti, Elisa

From: Hirsch, Michele
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2024 8:36 PM
To: Shaut, Andrea; Tinti, Elisa
Subject: A Resolution In Support of the Hudson Valley Power Authority
Attachments: COK HVPA Resolution .docx

Dear President Shaut,

The City of Kingston created a Climate Action Plan 2030 (CAP), which provides a blueprint to build sustainable, resilient, and independent energy, food, economic, and social systems over the next 10 years.

I believe that the Hudson Valley Power Authority Act, sponsored by Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha in the New York State Assembly and State Senator Michelle Hinchey in the New York State Senate is in complete alignment with our Climate Action Plan 2030 and it's passage by the New York State Legislature should be fully supported by the City of Kingston.

Please find attached a Resolution in support of the Hudson Valley Power Authority for consideration by the City of Kingston Common Council so that we can send a clear message to Albany. The people of Kingston want to be freed from the grip of Central Hudson so that we have lower service rates, we receive reliable service including correct billing and most importantly, our energy is clean energy.

Thank you.

With kind regards,

Michele Hirsch
Alderwoman, Ward 9

Resolution of the Common Council of Kingston, New York, calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass, and Governor Kathy Hochul to sign, the Hudson Valley Power Authority Act (A.10332/S.9534 of 2024).

Sponsored by:

Whereas, the Hudson Valley Power Authority Act, sponsored by Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha in the New York State Assembly and State Senator Michelle Hinchey in the New York State Senate, would create a new state power authority that is authorized to acquire Central Hudson and run it as a publicly-owned and democratic energy utility whose primary goal is to be in the service of its ratepayers by providing low rates, reliable service, correct and easy to understand bills, clean energy, community benefits, strong labor protections, and environmental justice; and

Whereas, publicly-owned utilities provide to ratepayers on average. As public entities, they can access financing at lower interest rates and prioritize affordability; and

Whereas, publicly-owned utilities have the highest track record of reliable service as they're able to prioritize service over profits; and

Whereas, with no shareholders to serve, publicly-owned utilities can serve as anchor institutions that invest in community benefits; and

Whereas, poor coordination has stalled the buildout of renewable energy. Publicly-owned utilities can coordinate directly with other state entities to streamline the energy system in its territory; and

Whereas, workers at investor-owned utilities are currently pitted against ratepayers. Publicly-owned utilities can invest in workers without always passing costs to its ratepayers; and

Whereas, public power entities with the public good as their core mission are more effective at leading a just transition to renewable energy as envisioned in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act; and

Whereas, Central Hudson has a proven history of not working to reduce ratepayers' reliance on fossil gas; and

Whereas, less than a month after receiving Public Service Commission (PSC) approval for rate hikes in July 2024, Central Hudson has requested another rate increase which would cause the average electric bill to increase by 5.3 percent and the average gas bill to increase by 5.9 percent; and

Whereas, Central Hudson has lost the public's trust through its yearlong billing scandal that increased the cost for its services for its customers with a 2022 Department of Public Service investigation determining that 8,000 customers were overcharged or double billed. In some cases the overcharge amount was by tens of thousands of dollars; and

Whereas, Central Hudson has the lowest-ranked utility in the state for customer satisfaction; and

Whereas, Central Hudson has a monopoly on generating profits from the distribution of electric power to over 300,000 customers in eight Hudson Valley counties from Putnam north to Albany; and

Whereas, Central Hudson Gas & Electric's faulty billing practices have led to significant financial and psychological strain; and

Whereas, Central Hudson restarted residential collections and shutoffs before the conclusion of the Department of Public Service's investigation into its billing issues and long before it had regained the public's trust; and

Whereas, according to the AARP, the New York utility affordability crisis is reported to be around \$1.6 billion dollars based on unpaid utility bills; and

Whereas, a 2021 Siena College survey reported that more than 50% of New York State residents claim that climate change is an issue that they are *very* concerned about; and

Whereas, Climate Change infrastructure repairs already cost New Yorkers more than a billion dollars each year with the NY State Comptroller estimating the price tag could be close to \$10 billion annually by 2050; and

Whereas, our municipality is a large ratepayer who has had difficult experiences with Central Hudson both around rate increases that impact our residents and in developing community energy projects; and

Whereas, our municipality and our Climate Smart Task Force has shown leadership in climate resilience and climate action through passing the Climate Smart Action Plan

2020 and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation named Kingston the first Silver Certified Climate Smart City in the State of New York; and

Be it resolved, that the Common Council of the City of Kingston calls upon the New York State Legislature to swiftly pass, and the Governor to sign, the Hudson Valley Power Authority Act.

Furthermore, be it resolved, that City Clerk, Elisa Tinti will send this resolution to Assemblymember Shresth, State Senator Hinchey, and Governor Hochul.