



The City of Poughkeepsie New York

Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

6:30 PM

Common Council Chambers

Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council the date is July 1, 2025, and the time is 6:34pm

I. ROLL CALL

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

1. Common Council Meeting of June 17, 2025

A motion to Approve Minutes of June 17, 2025 was made by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown and seconded by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson.

CCM Minutes of June 17, 2025 - VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	4th Ward Councilmember Shook
Result:	Passed

III. READING OF ITEMS by the City Chamberlain of any resolutions not listed on the printed agenda

IV. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. FROM DUTCHESS COUNTY COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE**, a presentation from Dutchess County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair regarding and audit of the Youth Opportunity Union Project.

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

THE YOUTH OPPORTUNITY UNION (Y.O.U.)



JUNE 2025



OFFICE OF THE
DUTCHESS COUNTY COMPTROLLER
DAN AYMAR-BLAIR, COMPTROLLER

Dan Aymar-Blair
Comptroller

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
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Brian D. Kelly
Deputy Comptroller

Heli Shah
Director of Audit

Dear County Officials and Taxpayers,

The Dutchess County Comptroller's Office has completed a special report on the proposed revitalization of the parcel at 35 Montgomery Street in the City of Poughkeepsie, where the old YMCA of Dutchess County once stood.

In 2020, County Executive Marcus Molinaro and Mayor Rob Rolison announced a deal to replace the old YMCA with a vibrant, multi-purpose "cathedral" of a community space. In that time, there has been significant public interest in the development of this parcel—particularly as an antidote to the placement of the county jail and a homeless shelter in downtown Poughkeepsie. Yet it is not well-understood by the public why the YOU was never built.

When a significant promise has been made to taxpayers but never realized, it is important to bring clarity and transparency to the effort so that policymakers might learn from it going forward. This report attempts to provide a complete picture of what occurred in the five years following the deal made in 2020. This report lays out the timeline of the project, enumerates its costs, and describes the latest efforts to rehabilitate the YOU brand, with or without a physical building.

County Executive Molinaro pledged **\$25 million** to the project. Only **\$8.5 million** was appropriated by the County Legislature. Of that, only **\$4.49 million** was actually spent by Dutchess County. The City of Poughkeepsie contributed an additional **\$240,000** to the demolition. The **\$4.49 million** came from Dutchess County's American Rescue Plan (ARP) COVID-19 relief funds and covered demolition costs, construction management, schematic designs, and other related expenses.

Despite these expenditures, there is no funded, practicable plan to construct the Youth Opportunity Union in the City of Poughkeepsie. The Office of the Comptroller will continue to monitor developments related to the County-owned parcel.

We thank the Department of Public Works and Commissioner Robert Balkind for their assistance in gathering the necessary information to provide this report to the public.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Aymar-Blair
Dutchess County Comptroller

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Mayor Rob Rolison of Poughkeepsie and County Executive Marc Molinaro during a press conference for the start of the demolition of the YMCA of Dutchess County building on June 6, 2022. (Credit: Kelly Marsh, Poughkeepsie Journal)

I. Comptroller's Summary

OBJECTIVE

This Comptroller's Report is intended to provide taxpayers with their first thorough view of Dutchess County's initiative to replace the vacant YMCA of Dutchess County building with "a safe, structured space that will benefit our area youth and provide much-needed educational and healthcare services, childcare and recreation opportunities" at 35 Montgomery Street in the City of Poughkeepsie.¹ The report outlines the costs associated with this project, including the costs of the demolition of the existing building and the design and planning for the new building called the Youth Opportunity Union, or the YOU.

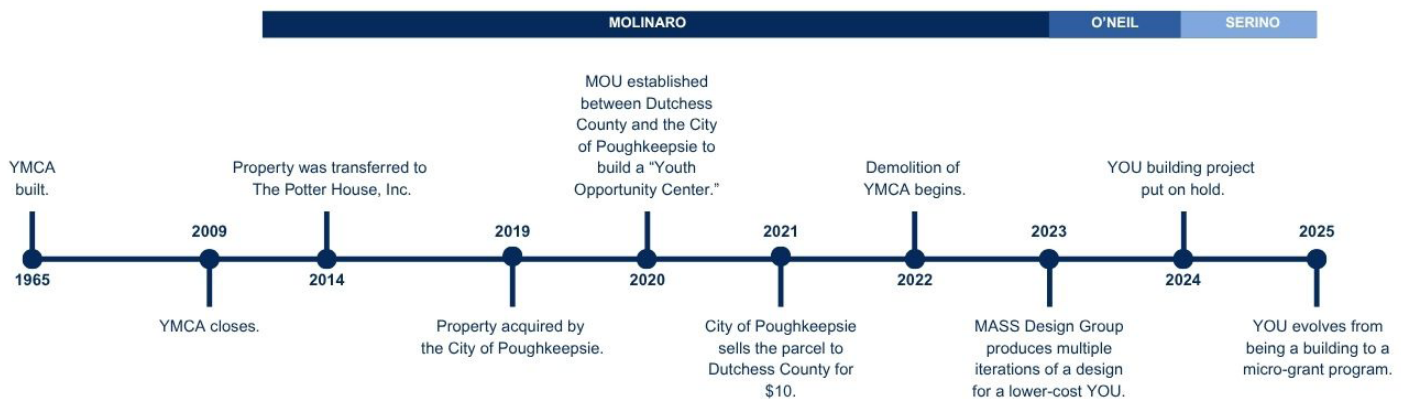
SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

This report provides a historical and financial overview of Dutchess County's efforts to redevelop the 3.35-acre parcel at 35 Montgomery Street in the City of Poughkeepsie (Grid No. 6061-28-946914) as a community center, the Youth Opportunity Union.

This chronology looks at the developments related to 35 Montgomery Street from the closing of the YMCA of Dutchess County in 2009 to the present. The scope of this review includes the initial agreements between the City of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County, the demolition of the YMCA of Dutchess County building, and the iterative design process for the Youth Opportunity Union, which has yet to be built. Costs related to each phase of development are included in this chronology.

Figure 1

Simplified timeline of the 35 Montgomery St. parcel from 1965-2025 with corresponding County leadership.



Not included in this report is a characterization of Dutchess County's efforts to attract non-profit, youth, and educational organizations as investors, operators, and partners to the YOU project. While some non-profit partners were interviewed in the preparation of this report, these statements cannot be independently verified.

The Comptroller's Office compiled this chronology and analyzed project costs by reviewing documents related to the redevelopment of the parcel at 35 Montgomery Street, including legislative resolutions from both the Dutchess County Legislature and the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council, contracts, invoices, vendor proposals, presentations at legislative meetings and press releases.

¹ ["Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Reach Agreement on YMCA Building's Future"](#)

II. Project History

THE YMCA OF DUTCHESS COUNTY

On January 12, 2009, the YMCA of Dutchess County in the City of Poughkeepsie, originally built in 1965, closed its doors due to the operator's financial struggles and the building's poor condition. This facility provided essential services including childcare, youth activities, community space, and a fitness center including a swimming pool.

On October 23, 2014, after the conclusion of a foreclosure action titled *Mahopac National Bank v. Dutchess County Young Men's Christian Association a/k/a Dutchess County Young Men's Christian Association of Poughkeepsie*, the property was transferred by Referee's deed to The Potter House, Inc. for **\$10**. The Potter House planned to renovate the existing building into a new community youth center. The Potter House, however, made no progress toward construction of a new facility and fell behind on property taxes and utility bills.



The YMCA of Dutchess County was built in 1965. (Credit: WRRV)

In February 2019, as recommended by former City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Robert Rolison's Anti-Blight Task Force, the City of Poughkeepsie executed the tax deed and acquired the parcel at 35 Montgomery Street from The Potter House.

In April 2019, the City of Poughkeepsie issued a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) which yielded one response, from the "35 Montgomery Street Coalition," a coalition of stakeholders to identify new sources of funding for the project. In 2020, the City of Poughkeepsie's Building Inspector deemed the structure of the building unsafe and in need of demolition, altering the economics of developing a site with a deed restricted for "educational, recreational, and cultural purposes."

II. Project History, Cont.

A DEAL WITH DUTCHESS COUNTY

On August 19, 2020, former Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro and Mayor Rolison signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Dutchess County and the City of Poughkeepsie that established a partnership to rehabilitate the property into a “Youth Opportunity Center.” Under this agreement (see **Exhibit A**), the City would transfer the title to Dutchess County for **\$10**. The County, in turn, would commit up to **\$25 million** for “the demolition, design, and construction of the Property.”

The County’s press release announcing the MOU stated further, “The site will be transformed into community green space while plans continue.”² The MOU itself did not include mention of the temporary community green space.

On May 8, 2021, the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council unanimously approved a resolution to have Dutchess County take ownership of the 35 Montgomery Street parcel.

On July 12, 2021, the Dutchess County Legislature adopted three resolutions related to the Youth Opportunity Union:

- [Resolution No. 2021109](#) finding “no significant adverse environmental impact” to be caused by the demolition.
- [Resolution No. 2021123](#) authorized the purchase of 35 Montgomery Street from the City of Poughkeepsie.
- [Resolution No. 2021124](#) authorized **\$8.5 million** of American Rescue Plan funding (COVID-19 relief) to be appropriated to the project: **\$2 million** for design of the new facility, **\$1 million** for construction management, and **\$5.5 million** for the demolition and to “return the property to open green space.” The resolution described the **\$8.5 million** appropriation as the first phase of a two-phase **\$10 million** commitment, with the second phase being an additional **\$1.5 million** for construction services for the new building. The resolution further commits an additional **\$15 million** as part of a bond resolution “in accordance with the terms of the contract of sale.”

On August 25, 2021, the City of Poughkeepsie sold the parcel to Dutchess County for **\$10**. Per the Contract of Sale, the City would be authorized to repurchase the parcel if benchmarked actions were not taken by Dutchess County:

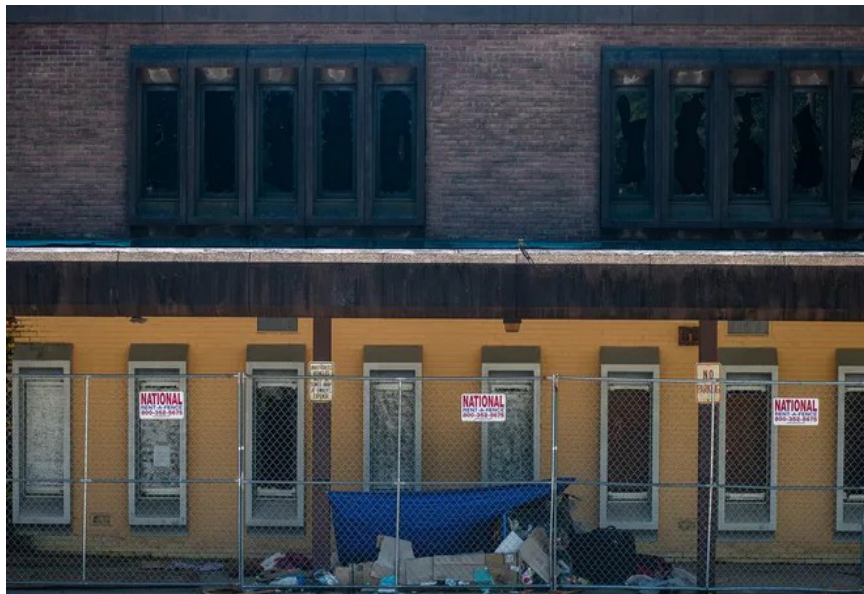
1. Appropriating **\$25 million** to the project within six months,
2. Demolishing the structure within a year,
3. Starting construction within 27 months,
4. Ensuring the property does not fall into disrepair again, and
5. Implementing restrictions on the installation of public telephones.

In the Contract of Sale, Mayor Rolison also committed 25% (not to exceed **\$240,000**) of the costs of demolishing the existing building from the City of Poughkeepsie.

² [“City of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County Sign Agreement to Make Youth Center a Reality”](#)

II. Project History, Cont.

A DEAL WITH DUTCHESS COUNTY, CONT.



A homeless encampment outside the old YMCA of Dutchess County just before the demolition began. (Credit: Kelly Marsh, Poughkeepsie Journal)

DEMOLITION

On June 6, 2022, the demolition of the YMCA of Dutchess County began. The demolition was certified as completed on Feb 8, 2023.

Total payments to the demolition contractor amounted to **\$1,596,254** of which the City of Poughkeepsie contributed the agreed-upon **\$240,000**. The total cost to the County for the demolition phase, including tree removal and construction management, was **\$1,666,332**, of which the County paid **\$1,426,332**.



Demolition of the old YMCA began in June 2022. (Credit: Kelly Marsh, Poughkeepsie Journal)

II. Project History, Cont.

DEMOLITION, CONT.

Vendor	Activity	Cost	Funding Source
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp.	Electric	\$13,739	ARPA (COVID-19 Relief)
CT Male Assoc., ENG, SRV	Site Monitoring	\$33,775	ARPA (COVID-19 Relief)
D&B Engineers & Architects	Estimating Services	\$7,500	ARPA (COVID-19 Relief)
Davey Tree Expert Company	Tree Removal	\$6,532	ARPA (COVID-19 Relief)
Gorick Construction	Demolition	\$1,356,254	ARPA (COVID-19 Relief)
Gorick Construction	Demolition	\$240,000	City of Poughkeepsie
Almstead Tree & Shrub Care Co.	Tree Removal	\$8,532	ARPA (COVID-19 Relief)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The County led a community engagement process to gather feedback for the YOU facility and services between October 2021 and March 2022. Feedback was gathered from 797 community members at 22 separate community outreach engagements including site visits, meetings and workshops.

The top services requested by the public were swimming lessons, cooking classes, and fitness courses. The top amenities were a pool and a rock-climbing wall. At the end of the community engagement process, the final design was anticipated to be completed in December 2022 and construction to begin in April 2023.



County officials gathered feedback at 22 outreach sessions like the image above.

II. Project History, Cont.

FIRST DESIGN

While community feedback was being gathered, MASS Design Group and partners began schematic design work.

On April 25, 2022, MASS Design Group presented conceptual drawings for a small economical project (42,599 sq. ft.), a medium-sized project (54,432 sq. ft.), and a large two-phase project (96,092 sq. ft.). The designs included most of the needs identified through community outreach including an Olympic-sized pool, gym, community space, childcare, a performing arts space, a community kitchen, and climbing walls.

“

If we are going to create an opportunity and confront the challenges that face young people and their families, we need a cathedral to do it.

— County Executive Marc Molinaro

”

On April 29, 2022, parties reviewed a version of the design with 103,397 sq. ft., as well as all the amenities. On June 12, 2022, the construction manager presented the first schematic construction estimate for a two-phase design totaling 104,677 square feet. After a few revisions, the total estimate for the project reached **\$165 million**.

Molinaro described the project as “a soaring architectural structure that brings people from all across the county into one safe space.”



Interior of the pool area from the first design. (Credit: MASS Design Group)

The stated plan to cover the remaining cost of the project was to secure funding from local educational organizations, charitable foundations, and state and federal grants. These fundraising efforts cannot be reliably characterized and are not included in this report; they can best be understood by looking at the outcomes.

II. Project History, Cont.

FIRST DESIGN, CONT.



The exterior of the first design. (Credit: MASS Design Group)

SECOND DESIGN

In February and March 2023, at the request of the new County Executive, William F. X. O'Neil, the County and MASS Design Group went through multiple iterations of a design for a lower-cost YOU. The Olympic-sized pool was replaced by a competition pool and a family pool. Other parts of the facility such as the gym and the theater were reduced in size. In his State of the County speech on March 8, 2023, O'Neil announced that a more economical YOU was being planned.

"We've really cut down on the 'nice to haves' and we tried to make this facility achievable," Christopher Kroner, head of the design team at MASS Design Group, told legislators.

With a grant from the New York State Public Service Commission, Central Hudson received approval for a Utility Thermal Energy Network (UTEN), or district geothermal network, that would locate a geothermal well field on the 35 Montgomery Street parcel. In return, the Youth Opportunity Union would have received free geothermal heating and cooling, eliminating the high costs of heating the pools.



“ Make no mistake, we're not building a palace. This is a design we're confident is attainable, buildable, and phase-able.

— County Executive William F.X. O'Neil

”

II. Project History, Cont.

SECOND DESIGN, CONT.



The exterior of the second design of the Youth Opportunity Union. (Credit: MASS Design Group)

To date, Dutchess County has paid 36 invoices for design work and related activities to MASS Design Group totaling **\$2,405,511**. Total design costs add up to **\$2,522,536**.

Vendor	Activity	Cost	Funding Source
Arace & Co. Consulting	Project Labor Agreement Feasibility Study	\$18,000	ARPA (COVID-19 Relief)
Tectonic Engineering & Surveying Consultants PC	Geotech investigating at YMCA	\$99,025	ARPA (COVID-19 Relief)
MASS Design Group	Youth Center Planning	\$2,405,511	ARPA (COVID-19 Relief)

PROJECT ON HOLD

“I will just say, very transparently, we’re at a place with this project that the funding gap is so large, it’s really not at a place where we can go to our local donors and ask them for the thing that would put the shovel in the ground.”

— Deputy County Executive Rachel Kashimer

On April 4, 2024, the YOU project was declared “on hold” by the administration of the newly-elected County Executive, Sue Serino. “The construction document development is on hold, and that’s really a function of trying to make sure we don’t spend the money unless we’re serious about pursuing the project further,” said Deputy County Executive Rachel Kashimer during an update to the County Legislature.

At the time, the project was estimated to cost **\$75,543,585**, still much more than the original **\$8.5 million** appropriation.

On July 19, 2024, the Dutchess County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 2024142, which redirected unspent American Rescue Plan funding to education initiatives. This included a reduction of **\$4,009,585** from the Youth Opportunity Union. No further funds have since been appropriated for this project.

II. Project History, Cont.

PROJECT ON HOLD, CONT.

With the project on hold indefinitely, it also appears the County has not completed all of the benchmarked actions as per the Contract of Sale covenants.

Action	Achieved?	Notes
"The PURCHASER shall be obligated to secure the approval of a resolution(s) of the Dutchess County Legislature appropriating funds and/or obtaining financing for the development of a youth and community center, up to a cumulative total of \$25 million, within six months from the date of Closing the Title."	NO	\$8.5 million was appropriated in July 2021; the remaining \$16.5 million was neither requested nor appropriated.
"The PURCHASER shall be obligated to demolish the existing structure on the Property within 12 months from the date of Closing of Title."	YES	Demolition began within 12 months from the date of the Closing of Title
"The PURCHASER shall be obligated to commence construction of the youth and opportunity center [sic] within 27 months from the date of Closing of Title."	NO	No construction has happened on the site since the Closing of Title.
"The PURCHASER shall assume responsibility for operating the Property as a youth opportunity center, and shall ensure its good maintenance and financial stability after constructions, and shall further ensure the Property not fall into disrepair during its period of ownership of the Property, nor financial insolvency."	NO	The landscape is overgrown, the mesh banners are falling off the fence, and the property is not regularly maintained.
"The deed shall contain a restrictive covenant prohibiting the installation of coin operated and public telephones on the Property."	YES	No telephones have been installed on the property.

Per the contract, "the CITY is authorized to repurchase the Property for the amount of money the PURCHASER has expended on the Property to date in conformance with its obligations pursuant to this Agreement."

To date, the County has spent **\$4.49 million**, less the contribution from the City of Poughkeepsie of **\$240,000** for the demolition, all of which came from American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding.

Spending Category	Cost
Design	\$2,522,536
Demolition	\$1,666,332
General/Administrative	\$519,874
Other	\$19,996
Property Acquisition	\$1,677
Total	\$4,730,415
City of Poughkeepsie Contribution	\$(240,000)
Grand Total	\$4,490,415

III. The YOU Today

THE YOU AQUATIC CENTER

In February 2024, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) issued a Request for Information for a new competitive grant program called New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming (NY SWIMS). This initiative is intended to fund the construction of new swimming facilities and to help more New Yorkers to learn to swim. Dutchess County applied for and was awarded **\$10 million** for a “Youth Opportunity Union Aquatic Center, comprised of an eight-lane lap pool, a two-lane family and therapy pool, and locker rooms.”

At the request of County Executive Sue Serino, MASS Design Group produced a new plan for a YOU Aquatic Center in July 2024. After a couple iterations, the new design, centered around a competition pool and a family pool, is 34,466 square feet (33% that of the original design) and would cost **\$39,853,091** (30% of the original cost). On top of the NY SWIMS grant, another **\$1 million** was secured by Congressman Pat Ryan. With **\$11 million** now identified for the project, **\$28,853,091** in capital investment is still needed.

This design included a wing for youth services. On December 16, 2024, the County issued a formal Request for Information and Expression of Interest (RFEOI) for “the development, management, and operations of a Youth Services Wing in the proposed Youth Opportunity Union Building, which will be owned by the County upon completion.” The RFEOI received responses from two non-profit organizations based in the City of Poughkeepsie. Because discussions are ongoing, the contents of those responses and subsequent conversations are not included in this report.

NEW LOGO

A new logo was created for County Executive Sue Serino's new vision for the Youth Opportunity Union. The graphic design for the logo cost **\$500**.



EVOLUTION OF THE YOUTH OPPORTUNITY UNION BETWEEN MAY 2022 AND JUNE 2024

Schematic Construction Estimates							
Project Version	County Executive	Estimate #		Construction Cost	Contingencies & Escalations*	Total Project Cost	Square Footage
YOU V1	Marcus Molinaro	#1	6/12/2022	\$114,550,600	Not included	\$114,550,600	104,677
		#2	6/21/2022	\$143,282,619	Not included	\$143,282,619	104,677
		#3	6/24/2022	\$143,282,619	\$22,058,137	\$165,340,756	104,677
		#4.	6/26/2022	\$131,624,183	\$22,464,731	\$154,088,914	104,677
		#4.1	6/27/2022	\$79,559,275	\$15,063,256	\$94,622,531	60,642
		#4.2	6/27/2022	\$48,570,470	\$10,728,246	\$59,298,716	34,654
YOU V2	William F. X. O'Neil	#5	2/15/2023	\$76,736,933	Not included	\$76,736,933	60,894
		#5.1	2/21/2023	\$76,736,933	\$12,633,912	\$89,370,845	60,894
		#6	3/1/2023	\$74,886,397	\$13,465,913	\$88,352,310	60,894
		#7	3/5/2023	\$53,620,000	\$11,379,999	\$64,999,999	60,894
		#8	3/30/2023	\$54,500,000	\$10,474,418	\$64,974,418	60,894
		#9	4/20/2023	\$59,238,652	\$10,871,641	\$70,110,293	58,302
YOU V3	Sue Serino	#10	4/29/2023	\$58,173,534	\$10,782,433	\$68,955,967	58,302
		#11	1/2/2024	\$63,802,553	\$11,741,282	\$75,543,835	60,685
YOU Aquatic Center		#12	7/1/2024	\$39,790,171	Not included	\$39,790,171	34,466
		#13	7/9/2024	\$39,853,091	\$10,034,669	\$49,887,760	34,466

*Beginning with estimate #3, most estimates included contingencies, escalations, and other related costs.

III. The YOU Today, Cont.

“YOU WITHOUT WALLS”

In October 2024, as part of her 2025 budget presentation, County Executive Sue Serino announced she was “expanding the YOU beyond the development of a single facility” with a **\$250,000** micro-grant program called Youth Opportunity Union Drop-In Center Grants and another **\$75,000** in YOU Mini Grants. The Drop-In Center grant awards would range from **\$10,000** to **\$75,000** supporting capital improvements for spaces where young people can gather outside of school. The Mini Grant awards are intended for youth programs seeking to expand their reach. Collectively, Dutchess County calls these youth services and activities the “YOU Without Walls.”

“

The Youth Opportunity Union is more than just a physical building—it's about a true union of support for our young people across Dutchess County.

— County Executive Sue Serino

”

In May 2025, YOU Drop-In Center Grants were awarded to 14 organizations, with individual grants ranging from **\$10,000** and **\$30,000**. Six of the 14 organizations were located in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Organization	Town/City	Amount
Wassaic Project	Amenia	\$15,000
Nubian Directions II	City of Poughkeepsie	\$30,000
Mental Health America	City of Poughkeepsie	\$10,000
The Art Effect	City of Poughkeepsie	\$30,000
Positive About Possibilities	City of Poughkeepsie	\$10,000
Community Matters 2	City of Poughkeepsie	\$30,000
Community Family Development	City of Poughkeepsie	\$30,000
Dover Plains Free Library Assoc.	Dover	\$11,926
East Fishkill Community Library	East Fishkill	\$15,000
New Deal Creative Arts Center	Hyde Park	\$10,000
Millbrook Library	Millbrook	\$15,000
Pine Plains Free Library	Pine Plains	\$15,000
Hope Rising Up	Rhinebeck	\$18,074
CAPE	Wappinger	\$10,000
TOTAL		\$250,000

Exhibit A - MOU Between City and County

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES CENTER

Between

CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE

and

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "MOU") between the CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE, a municipal corporation of the State of New York with its offices at 62 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 (hereinafter "CITY") and COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, a municipal corporation of the State of New York with its offices at 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601, (hereinafter "COUNTY"),

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, CITY is currently the owner of the former YMCA building located at 35 Montgomery Street in the City of Poughkeepsie, County of Dutchess, State of New York and more particularly described as Tax Map No.: 6061-28-946914 (the "Property"), which was acquired by tax deed dated February 19, 2019 and recorded in the Dutchess County Clerk's Office on February 25, 2019 as Document No.: 02-2019-1335; and

Exhibit A - MOU Between City and County

WHEREAS, from 1965 until January 12, 2009, the Property was home to the YMCA of Dutchess County which provided the community with important programs and facilities including childcare, a youth center, a swimming pool, a fitness center and community activity rooms; and

WHEREAS, since the YMCA closed its doors in 2009 the building has been vacant and idle without any real plan of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the Property contains a deed restriction requiring the Property be used for “educational, recreational and cultural purposes”; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Anti-Blight Task Force created by Mayor Rob Rolison recommended the CITY take title to the property based upon unpaid tax liens which had accrued since 2008; and

WHEREAS, at the recommendation of the Anti-Blight Task Force, City’s Commissioner of Finance executed the tax deed acquiring title to the Property; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2019, CITY released a Request for Expressions of Interest (“RFEI”) to seek potential development proposals and contemporaneity the CITY held several stakeholder engagement sessions, including two public meetings on May 13, 2019 and June 26, 2019, in order to assess community/stakeholder needs; and

Exhibit A - MOU Between City and County

WHEREAS, conclusion of the stakeholder engagement sessions supported the creation of a multi-purpose facility encompassing a youth activity center, education, arts, health and wellness as well as a 24-hour daycare facility; and

WHEREAS, CITY received only one viable response to its RFEI from a coalition of stakeholders known as the “35 Montgomery Street Coalition” which coalition has been selected by CITY to identify possible capital funds and develop programing at the redeveloped Property, subject to meeting certain milestones; and

WHEREAS, the CITY has recently conducted a preliminary environmental and structural review of the Property which concludes that the Property must be demolished and which conclusion is supported by the Building Inspector of CITY who has ordered the Property unsafe; and

WHEREAS, the CITY lacks the resources to redevelop the Property in accordance with the will of the community stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, ongoing negotiations between the CITY and COUNTY have identified a potential partnership which would allow for the demolition of the Property and secure funding toward the development of a Youth Opportunity Center; and

Exhibit A - MOU Between City and County

WHEREAS, the CITY and COUNTY wish to memorialize its discussions, lay out the joint objectives of the parties, and establish a formalized plan to redevelop the Property.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto set forth their understanding of this undertaking as follows:

ARTICLE I: OBJECTIVES

The CITY and COUNTY wish to establish a formal partnership for the redevelopment of the Property into a Youth Opportunity Center. In order to accomplish this, the City and County shall formalize an Inter-Municipal Agreement ("IMA") subject to ratification by its respective bodies which IMA contains the mutual agreements set forth herein.

ARTICLE II: OWNERSHIP

As a result of the significant funding by COUNTY and due to the joint objective that the parties enter into a partnership, CITY agrees to transfer Title to the Property, which shall be held in the names of the CITY and COUNTY as Joint Tenants. The transfer of the title is contingent upon approval of the governing authorities of the County and City.

Exhibit A - MOU Between City and County

ARTICLE III: FUTURE FUNDING

Following the transfer of title to the COUNTY, the COUNTY agrees to commit funding for the demolition, design, and construction of the Property in an amount up to \$25 million. Such funding is contingent upon the availability of funds and approval by the County governing authority. Such funds shall be used solely for the construction of a community youth center in keeping with the deed restrictions on the Property.

Article IV: CITY REPRESENTATIONS

1. Power and Authority

CITY has the necessary power and authority to enter into and perform its duties under this MOU.

2. Impediments

(a) CITY represents that there is no action, suit, proceeding, inquiry, or investigation, at law or in equity, before or by any court, public board or body pending or threatened in writing against or affecting CITY or any basis thereof, wherein an unfavorable decision, ruling or finding would materially, adversely affect the transaction contemplated hereby, or which in any way would adversely affect the validity or enforceability of this MOU and any subsequent agreement.

Exhibit A - MOU Between City and County

(b) CITY represents that existing obligations and commitments of CITY do not conflict with this MOU and do not adversely affect its ability to fulfill its obligations under this MOU and any subsequent agreement. City further represents that it will address in a timely manner any future obligations or commitments that may conflict with this MOU or any subsequent agreement.

(c) Except as disclosed in writing to COUNTY, to the best of its knowledge, CITY is not in violation of any law, order, rule or regulation applicable to any facility or program operated, maintained or managed by CITY the violation of which would adversely affect the parties' performance of this MOU and any subsequent agreement.

Article V: COUNTY REPRESENTATIONS

1. Power and Authority

COUNTY has the necessary power and authority to enter into and perform its duties under this MOU and any subsequent agreement.

2. Impediments

(a) COUNTY represents that there is no material action, suit, proceeding, inquiry, or investigation, at law or in equity, before or by any court, public board or body pending or threatened in writing against or affecting the COUNTY or on any basis thereof, wherein an unfavorable decision, ruling or finding would

Exhibit A - MOU Between City and County

materially, adversely affect the transaction contemplated hereby, or which in any way would adversely affect the validity of this MOU and any subsequent agreement.

(b) The existing obligations and commitments of the COUNTY do not conflict with this MOU and do not adversely affect its ability to fulfill its obligations under this MOU and any subsequent agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives as of the 19th day of August, 2020.

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE


MARCUS J. MOLINARO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE 8/19/20

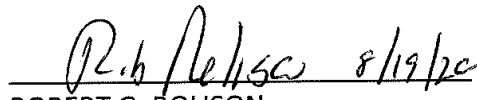

ROBERT G. ROLISON
MAYOR

Exhibit B - Outreach Poster

COMING
SOON

YOU

YOUTH
OPPORTUNITY
UNION

Dutchess County is turning the site of the former Dutchess YMCA in the **City of Poughkeepsie** into the YOU - a new state-of-the-art **youth and community center**!

¡El Condado de Dutchess está modernizando la antigua YMCA de la ciudad de Poughkeepsie y convirtiéndola en el YOU - un centro comunitario con lo último en diseño!

PLAY
JUGAR

COOK
COCINAR

CLIMB
ESCALAR

SWIM
NADAR

LEARN
APRENDER

GROW
CRECER

LEAD
LIDERAR

www.the-you.org

WE WANT TO HEAR **YOUR** IDEAS FOR THE **YOU**!
¡QUEREMOS ESCUCHAR **TUS** IDEAS PARA EL **YOU**!

Scan Me
Escanéame



Glossary of Terms

Geothermal: A heating/cooling system that utilizes the heat of the Earth's interior to maintain temperatures in a building.

Referee's Deed: A legal document issued by a court official to transfer ownership of real property that has been sold through a court-ordered sale. This type of deed is commonly used when property is sold through foreclosure proceedings or bankruptcy sales.

Request for Expression of Interest: An invitation to the marketplace to gauge the interests and the abilities of potential providers of goods and services.

OFFICE OF THE DUTCHESS COUNTY COMPTROLLER
DAN AYMAR-BLAIR, COMPTROLLER

22 MARKET STREET, 4TH FLOOR
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601
WWW.DUTCHESSNY.GOV/COMPTROLLER
COMPTROLLER@DUTCHESSNY.GOV
(845) 486-2050

  @comptrollerdan

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of July 1, 2025

2. **FROM SUSTAINABLE HUDSON VALLEY**, a presentation regarding a Clean Mobility project intended to give Poughkeepsie residents better transportation options
3. **FROM KAJZIA GREEN AND JOHNATHAN GREEN**, a notice of claim for personal injury sustained on or about September 27, 2024

A motion to Defer Item Number Three (3) to Corporation Counsel was made by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson and seconded by 6th Ward Council Member Grant.

Motion to Defer Item #3 to Corporation Counsel- VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	4th Ward Councilmember Shook
Result:	Passed

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Three (3) minutes per person up to 45 minutes of public comment on any agenda and non-agenda item.

Paul Brenner - S. Grand Ave
Suprina Troche - Delafield St
Jeff Aman - Barnard Ave
Daniel Atonna - College Ave
Doug Nobiletti - Liberty St
Laurie Sandow - S. Grand Ave*

***Submitted written comments**

Laurie Sandow comments, City of Poughkeepsie Common Council meeting, July 1, 2025

“Be good or be gone” has long been the slogan of the Apollo’s Amateur Night. On every occasion that Sakima McClinton has run for a Council seat, Poughkeepsie’s 8th Ward has taken that slogan to heart and to the ballot box, including during the recent primary when—in the words of the Mid-Hudson News—Daniel Atonna walloped Sakima McClinton by a vote of 332 to 67. I’m not aware that McClinton has publicly congratulated or conceded to Atonna. Even if she has, election results are still unofficial until certified as a true and accurate accounting of all votes cast in a particular election.

Certification or no, the 8th Ward’s primary night numbers should have been understood by Common Council members as a message that was as crystal clear as possible: do not use, abuse or interpret the Charter for the benefit of your own self-serving interests—whether your interest be filling Megan Deichler’s vacated seat with a person who’ll be complicit and obedient to the Council’s backroom dealmaking; or your interest be a person who’ll go-along to get along with fellow Councilmembers; rather than being a person who’ll seek, be responsive to, and fairly represent and meet the needs of constituents. The City of Poughkeepsie Charter makes clear: the Common Council, as representatives of the people of the City, has explicit oversight powers and supervisory authority over the performance of the executive branch in the administration of the operations of the City. Common Council members were never meant to be, nor should they ever become rubber stamps for the Mayor’s policies, whims, favoritism and silos.

After being slotted into office, McClinton has repeatedly cited her West Point credentials while failing to mention, and failing to live up to the West Point Cadet Honor Code, which states, “A Cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do.” Cadets use the “Three Rules to Live By” to ensure that an action they are considering would not be dishonorable.

The Three Rules ask:

- Does this action attempt to deceive anyone or allow anyone to be deceived?
- Does this action gain or allow the gain of privilege or advantage to which I or someone else would not otherwise be entitled?
- Would I be dissatisfied by the outcome if I were on the receiving end of this action?

If a Cadet can answer “Yes” to any of these questions, the act would likely be dishonorable, undermining trust in that Cadet and tarnishing the honor of the Corps.

Consider, as a recent example, that McClinton has no current candidate and campaign financial disclosure filed with the NY State Board of Elections. Her most recent filing dates back to 2022. Since being slotted into the Deichler vacancy, other misrepresentations and half-truths have also been recited by McClinton.

Because the following words are so succinctly stated, and so applicable to every member of this Common Council, I close with this quote from Doctrine & Covenants 121:39:

“We have learned by sad experience that it is the nature and disposition of almost all men, as soon as they get a little authority, as they suppose, they will immediately begin to exercise unrighteous dominion....” Unrighteous Dominion being described as seeking worldly acclaim and gratification of pride and vain ambition in place of divine approbation.

VI. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A motion to Approve The Consent Agenda was made by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown and seconded by 1st Ward Council Member Henry.

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda - VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	4th Ward Councilmember Shook
Result:	Passed

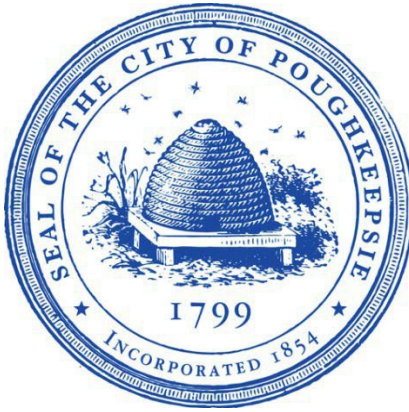
1. **R-25-60**, Resolution Adopting Purchasing Policy and Replacing the Purchase Policy Adopted by Resolution R-25-07 on January 2, 2025

R E S O L U T I O N

(R-25-60)

INTRODUCED BY CHAIRMAN WILSON, COUNCILMEMBER SHOOK, PATTERSON THOMPSON, HENRY, MENIST, BROWN, JAMES, GRANT AND MCCLINTON

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby adopts the Purchasing Policy with exhibits of which a copy is attached hereto and made a part of this resolution. This shall replace the Purchasing Policy adopted by resolution R-25-07 on January 2, 2025.



CITY of POUGHKEEPSIE PROCUREMENT POLICY

REVISED: Effective - 2025

Hon. Yvonne Flowers
Mayor

Joseph Donat
City Administrator

Joseph Vita
Commissioner of Finance

This document is intended to outline the framework for procuring goods and services for the City of Poughkeepsie (City) in a timely manner and, at the same time, assuring the prudent and efficient use of public monies.

A. INTRODUCTION

The provisions of the City's Procurement Policy are generally based on the requirements of General Municipal Law, Sections 103 and 104-b and those minimum requirements may be supplemented by more onerous requirements as set forth herein.

In part, GML, Section 103 reads, in part, "Except as otherwise expressly provided by an act of the legislature of the municipality, by a local law adopted prior to September 1, 1953, all contracts for public work involving an expenditure of more than **Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00)** and all purchase contracts involving an expenditure of more than **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)**, shall be awarded by the appropriate officer, board or agency of a political subdivision or of any district therein but not limited to a soil conservation district, to the lowest possible bidder furnishing the required security after advertisement for sealed bids in the manner provided by this section..."

GML, Section 104-b, states in part, "Goods and services which are not required by law to be procured by political subdivisions or any districts therein pursuant to competitive bidding must be procured in a manner so as to assure the prudent and economical use of public monies in the best interests of the taxpayers of the political subdivision or district, to facilitate the acquisition of goods and services of maximum quality at the lowest possible cost, under the circumstances, and to guard against favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud and corruption..."

B. BOARD OF CONTRACT AND SUPPLY

There shall be a Board of Contract and Supply (BOCS) who shall be responsible for administering this Procurement Policy. The BOCS shall be comprised of the City Administrator, Corporation Counsel, Commissioner of Finance, Commissioner of Public Works, and the City Engineer. The City Administrator will act as an ad hoc member of the BOCS to break tie votes. The BOCS will annually select an individual to serve as Chair.

In the event of an excused absence, as determined by the Chair, the following individuals may attend and shall have full voting rights as if they were a member of the BOCs for that meeting only:

- a. Corporation Counsel – an Assistant Corporation Counsel as designated by the Corporation Counsel
- b. Commissioner of Finance – Deputy Commissioner of Finance;
- c. Commissioner of Public works – the Deputy Superintendent of Public Works; and
- d. City Engineer – an Assistant City Engineer as designed by the City Engineer.

The BOCS will normally be assisted by the Purchasing Agent acting as the recording secretary at all meetings and awards. The Purchasing Agent will generally be in attendance at bid openings but will have no voting rights and cannot be included in the Quorum.

C. PUBLIC WORKS AND PURCHASE CONTRACTS

Competitive bidding will be utilized whenever required by law or when determined to be in the best interest of the City in accordance with GML, Section 103.

1. Thresholds

The Common Council has enacted the following regarding the purchases below the competitive bidding threshold:

PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS	
ESTIMATED COST	REQUIREMENT
\$0.00 TO \$4,999.00	No Requirement to get quotes – No Purchase Order Required
\$5,000.00 to \$ 19,999.00	2 Written or Electronic Quotes – Purchase Order Required
\$20,000.00 to \$34,999.00	3 Written or Electronic Quotes – Purchase Order Required
\$35,000.00 and above	Formal Advertised Bid

PURCHASE CONTRACTS	
ESTIMATED COST	REQUIREMENT
\$0.00 TO \$4,999.00	No Requirement to get quotes – No Purchase Order Required
\$5,000.00 to \$ 19,999.00	2 Written or Electronic Quotes – Purchase Order Required
\$20,000.00 and above	Formal Advertised bid

2. Bid Process

For projects or purchases exceeding the bidding threshold, the requesting department shall submit a completed *Request for Bid* form to the Purchasing Agent in the form attached as Exhibit A. The Purchasing Agent is delegated certain duties on behalf of the Commissioner of Finance, the Purchasing Agent for the City, in accordance with the City of Poughkeepsie Charter, Section 7.03.

The requesting department(s) shall, in conjunction with the Purchasing Agent, prepare bidding specifications. Specifications should be clearly written. They should provide prospective bidders a common standard by which to be measured and provide assurance that bidders will be competing on a fair and equal basis. The specifications should indicate the basis by which bids and offers will be evaluated. Specifications should provide prospective bidders with sufficient information for them to formulate bids.

All bids shall include a Non-Collusion Certificate, an Iran Divestment Certification, Indemnification Agreement, and all other documents required by General Municipal Law.

A Bid Bond, generally 5% of the bid, may be required on certain projects including service contracts. This bond is intended to protect the City in the event that a bidder refuses to enter into a contract after the contract is awarded or the bidder withdraws his bid before the award.

Performance Bonds in the amount of 100% of the bid are required for all construction projects. This bond offers the City protection in the event of the contractor's failure to perform in accordance with the awarded contract terms.

Prevailing wage rates apply to all projects subject to Articles 8 and 9 of the NYS Department of Labor. All bids shall be advertised on the Empire State Purchasing Group website, www.bidnetdirect.com/newyork, and on the City website, www.cityofpoughkeepsie.com. Bids for projects or purchases that are federally, or state funded may be advertised on the New York State Contract Reporter website, www.nyscr.ny.gov.

a. Contractor/Subcontractor Registry

Contractors and subcontractors submitting bids or performing construction work on public work projects or private projects covered by [Article 8 of the Labor Law](#) **need to register with the Department of Labor before submitting any new bids, quotes or commencing new work on a covered project on or after December 30, 2024.** Certificate of Registration must be received prior to commencement of work or submitted with request for quotes or formal bids.

All projects must have a Prevailing wage schedule issued by the Department of Labor

b. "Wicks Law" (GML §101)

Separate specifications for all contracts for the erection, construction, reconstruction, or alteration of buildings when the entire cost exceeds \$500,000.00 be prepared so as to permit separate bidding for:

1. Plumbing and gas fitting
2. Steam heating, hot water heating, ventilation, and air conditioning apparatus; and
3. Electric wiring and standard illumination fixtures.

c. Apprenticeship

Any contractor or subcontractor who bids on a construction project having an anticipated value in excess of \$100,000 must have apprenticeship agreements appropriate for the type and scope of work to be performed. The apprenticeship program must have been registered with the New York State Commissioner of Labor in accordance with Article 23 of the Labor Law.

3. Bid Opening and Award

The Board of Contract and Supply will have the option to reject all bids and re-advertise at its discretion.

All bid openings will be opened publicly and read at the time and place specified in the advertisement for bids unless otherwise specified. Bid openings can be attended by any and all interested parties.

Bids received after the specified bid opening time will not be accepted and will be returned unopened to the prospective bidder.

The following rules will govern:

- a. The Purchasing Agent and the requesting department will designate any person to open and read the bids aloud.
- b. The bids will be recorded and reported at the next regular or special meeting of the BOCS.
- c. Copies of original bids will be provided to the Department Head of the originating department to determine that the bids opened meet the bid specifications.
- d. A tabulation sheet shall be prepared recording all pricing submitted by responding bidders. The Purchasing Agent will assist the requesting department to evaluate bid responses and prepare a bid evaluation. If a Best Value award is to be made, the submittal will be reviewed in accordance with the criteria established in Local Law 2014-2. Local Law 2014-2 excludes purchase contracts required for the completion of a public works contract pursuant to Labor Law Article 8.
- e. The Commissioner of Finance shall determine that sufficient appropriations are contained within the originating department's budget or that other means are available to fund the project or purchase.
- f. The BOCS may reject any and all bids that do not meet the bid specifications.
- g. The originating Department Head will recommend the award and certify in writing (email shall be sufficient) that the prospective awardee has submitted a bid or proposal that meets the intent of the bid specifications.
- h. The BOCS shall determine the responsibility and responsiveness of the prospective awardee. The originating department will notify any low bidder of a rejection based on a determination that the bidder is not responsible or responsive.
- i. A majority of the BOCS must then concur with the award.
- j. If federal funds are to be expended for the project or purchase, the Purchasing Agent shall be responsible to verify, with the assistance of legal counsel and/or other consultants, that the proposed awardee is eligible by all Federal standards.
- k. In the event that two or more responsive/responsible bidders submit identical low bids, the BOCS will determine which is awarded the contract.
- l. The Commissioner of Finance acting as the Procurement Agent of the City will issue a Notice of Award.
- m. The Purchasing Agent shall draft and submit a proposed contract to the Corporation Counsel for approval. Once approved, the Purchasing Agent will forward three (3) copies of the contract along with a signed Notice of Award to the awardee for signature and required documents. After execution by the awardee, the contract will be forwarded to the Mayor for signature. On receipt of all executed contracts, the Purchasing Agent will issue a Notice to Proceed.
- n. The Purchasing Agent will issue the Non-Award Notice(s) and return all bid bonds to the bidder(s) who were not selected.
- o. The BOCS may also request that a notice of Intent to Award be issued in the event that additional time is needed before making an actual award.

4. Bid Errors

In the event that a submitted bid or proposal contains a unilateral error in calculation, the responder may withdraw the bid or proposal after a showing in accordance with GML 103(11)

5. Bid Protest Procedures

a. Contents of Protest:

A Bidder desiring to file a protest may submit a written protest to City's Purchasing Agent. The protest must include:

1. the name and address and telephone number of the Bidder;
2. identification of the contract or bid solicitation being protested;
3. a detailed and factual statement of the grounds for protest;
4. supporting documentation; and
5. the desired relief, action or ruling.

Each protest must be in **writing** and delivered to Purchasing Agent of the City as follows:

Bid Protest

Attention: Purchasing Agent City of Poughkeepsie

62 Civic Center Plaza

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

b. Time for Filing:

1. Protests alleging restrictive specifications or improprieties in the bid solicitation which are or should be apparent prior to the bid due date must be received by the City not later than three business days prior to the bid due date.
2. All other protests must be received by the City within five business days after the opening of the Bid/RFP.
3. Any additional information relevant to the protest requested by the City from the protestor shall be submitted to the City as expeditiously as possible, but in no case later than three business days after requested by the City.
4. The time limits set forth in this section must be strictly adhered to. The City will not consider a protest or additional documentation which is not received by the Purchasing Agent within the time periods set forth herein.

c. City Action

1. Upon receiving a Protest, the Purchasing Agent shall notify the department responsible for the bid and the Corporation Counsel of the bid protest. The department shall gather the relevant information about the solicitation, evaluation and award of the bid and provide it to the Purchasing Agent within ten (10) calendar days of the Bid Protest.
2. If an award of a contract has already been made at the time that a bid protest is received, the City will notify the contractor of the protest, and will delay the issuance of any notice to proceed until the protest has been disposed of.
3. If an award of a contract has not already been made, but bids have been opened, the City will notify all bidders who appear to have a substantial and reasonable prospect of receiving an award if the protest is denied. A recommendation to BOCS will not be made for contract award until a written response to a bid protest has been approved by the BOCS and such response has been transmitted to the protestor.
4. If a bid protest is filed before the due date for receiving bids, the City will notify all bidders from whom

bids have been received of the filing of a protest and that bids will not be opened until the protest has been resolved.

5. The Purchasing Agent will deliver all relevant information and a recommended determination to the BOCS. The BOCS shall review the information relevant to the bid and shall render a decision on the protest as soon as practical but in no event later than ten (10) business days after the bid protest was received.
6. The decision shall contain the action taken and the rationale for such action, and shall be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the protestor at the address set forth in the bid protest or transmitted by email if the protestor provides an email address. A copy of the decision shall be maintained by the Corporation Counsel and distributed to the Department, the BOCS, and the Commissioner of Finance with copies to be retained by the Purchasing Agent. The decision of the BOCS shall be final and conclusive.
7. If the relief, action or ruling requested by the protestor is granted, the City will take appropriate actions to amend the bid solicitation or terminate the procurement process.

The City of Poughkeepsie alone will be responsible in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the City of any contractual responsibility under its contracts.

6. Best Value

The Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie has adopted Local Law No. 2014-2 allowing the City's Finance Commissioner the "authority to accept Best Value" in awarding purchasing contracts subject to the requirements of GML, Section 103. The Local Law excludes any purchase contracts necessary for the completion of a public works contract pursuant to Labor Law Article 8.

A "Best Value" award is defined as a basis for awarding contracts "to the offeror which optimizes quality, cost and efficiency among responsive and responsible offerors." A determination must be made in writing by the Commissioner of Finance detailing why a "Best Value" award will be made before the solicitation of bids can occur. When it has been determined that a "Best Value" award is to be made, the criteria by which the "Best Value" will be evaluated and the process by which the evaluation and selection will be made must also be documented and included in the bid package.

The criteria used to determine Best Value shall be made in advance of the initial receipt of offers and shall be made on an objective and quantifiable analysis of such criteria. The criteria may include, but is not limited to, any or all of the following:

1. Cost of Maintenance,
2. Proximity to the end user if distance and response time is a significant term,
3. Durability,
4. Availability of replacement parts or maintenance contractors,
5. Longer product life,
6. Product performance criteria,
7. Quality of craftsmanship,
8. Price,
9. Local Employment.

7. Exceptions to Competitive Bidding.

- a. Purchases through the NYS Office of General Services
- b. Purchases under county or other municipal contract (Piggybacking). In the interest of increased efficiency, the purchase of goods and services through the NYS Office of General Services contracts or the “Piggybacking” on contracts existing through the Dutchess County Office of Central Services or those of other political subdivisions is strongly encouraged. The use of the competitive bidding process for the purchase of commodities otherwise readily available through these contracts will normally not be necessary except under extenuating circumstances, e.g., immediate need and availability through another vendor.
- c. Professional Services, not subject to GML 103, competitive bidding.
- d. “Sole source supplier” shall mean a manufacturer, software developer, or service provider that sells direct and there are no other sources offering an “or equal.” For consideration of sole source status, the entity must provide the Purchasing Agent with a letter, on official letterhead, detailing their sole source status.
- e. Single source supplier is defined as a distributor/wholesaler/retailer that has a contractual agreement to provide services within a specific geographic territory to the exclusion of all others. For consideration of single source status, the entity must provide the Purchasing Agent a letter, on official letterhead, detailing their single source status.
- f. Emergencies defined as arising out of an accident or other unforeseen occurrence of conditions whereby circumstances affecting public buildings, public property, or the life, health, safety of property of the inhabitants of the City of Poughkeepsie require immediate action which cannot await the competitive bidding process. An Emergency Declaration, signed by the Mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie, is required to be forwarded to the Purchasing Agent. Lack of anticipation or planning cannot be deemed as cause for the Emergency Declaration.
- g. Preferred Source
 - i) Purchases through agencies for the blind and/or severely handicapped.(NYSPSP)
 - ii) Goods made by correctional facilities (Corecraft)
 - iii) Goods or Services provided by the Disabled. (NYSID)
- h. Second-hand goods or surplus from Federal, State, or other political subdivision.
- i. Products offered by the Federal Government, Government Services Administration (GSA) Schedules 70 & 84, 1122 Public Safety Purchasing Program, NJPA, and other cooperative agreements.
- j. Leases defined as true leases, not installment purchases.
- k. Work performed by municipal employees under municipal cooperation agreements.

8. Standardization – GML §103(5)

Bidding for a particular brand or model requires that the Common Council adopt a resolution explaining the reason for standardization by a 3/5 vote.

Guidelines:

- 1. A substantial amount of equipment of the same make is presently being used by the municipality and uniformity of the make is essential to economy of efficiency,
- 2. Service facilities are peculiarly adapted to the handling of a particular make of equipment and cannot be converted economically,

3. The municipality has on hand a substantial supply of spare parts for a particular make of equipment, and they cannot be disposed of except at a substantial loss,
4. The design, plan, or method of construction of an installation is particularly suited to a particular make of equipment and cannot be altered economically,
5. Local geographic or atmospheric conditions require the use of a particular make of equipment to the exclusion of all others,
6. Employees are trained to operate one make of equipment and cannot be trained economically to operate other makes.

The adoption of such a resolution does not eliminate the necessity for conformance to the competitive bidding requirements. Standardization restricts the purchase to a specific model or type of equipment but does not limit the vendors it can be purchased from.

Standardization should be used very sparingly and only after careful consideration of the ramifications to future purchases and maintenance costs as this tends to reduce or, in some way, eliminate competition thus causing the City more than it may save by standardizing.

D. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

GML §104-b provides that the City must adopt internal policies and procedures governing all procurement of goods and services which are not required to be competitively bid.

Generally, Professional Services involve specialized skill, training, expertise, license or degree and are not subject to Public Works requirements. As such, Architectural, Engineering, and Legal Consultant services are designed as Professional Services.

Professional Services are not subject to competitive bidding requirements. The Common Council has enacted the following standards for retaining Professional Services:

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	
\$1 - \$19,999	No formal quotation required. The retention shall be at the discretion of the Department Head. Purchase Order Required \$5,000 - \$19,000
\$20,000 - \$39,999	Two (2) Written quotations with Department Head approval. Purchase Order Required
\$40,000 - \$49,999	Three (3) Written quotations with Department Head approval. Purchase Order Required
\$50,000 and above	Formal Request for Proposal as set forth below Purchase Order Required

Professional Services of \$50,000 and above, shall be competitively solicited through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and evaluated subject to a pre-determined set of weighted criteria. RFP's may be advertised similarly to bid advertisements, or they may be selectively directed and solicited from others.

Requests for deviation from the RFP process are to be documented and approved by the Corporation Counsel or, in the event requested by the Corporation Counsel, the City Administrator.

The pre-determined criteria may include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Cost
2. Responsiveness –availability to meet project guidelines.
3. Qualifications – project understanding and approach.
4. Experience – similar services provided to public or private sector clients.
5. Local Employment Preference – Businesses that employ City of Poughkeepsie residents
6. Any other criteria as determined by the requesting department.

Where appropriate, the solicitation shall identify the relative importance and/or weight of each criterion identified. A criteria evaluation team should be identified before solicitation. The basis for award should be documented in the procurement file in advance of the initial receipt of offers.

RFPs that are solicited under certain funding may not be subject to the quote process and may require a Formal bid. Such funding includes projects under Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC)

Departments must procure such services in accordance with the procedures above.

a. Local Employment

On March 10, 2016, The Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie adopted Resolution, R-2016-27, Amending the Purchasing Policy to Encourage Local Employment. The resolution directs the Purchasing Agent to consider as a weighted factor, the percentage of City of Poughkeepsie residents employed by a business when considering an award of a contract, not subject to competitive bidding, if such business is otherwise deemed responsive and responsible. If a business wishes to request this consideration, he\she must make this request specifically in his\her RFP response and provide verifiable documentation of the percentage of his\her employees who are City residents.

b. Multi-Year Agreements

Where a professional services contract provides an option for renewal, all provisions for the same may be fully exhausted before the particular service shall be subject to a subsequent request for proposals. Annual contracts subject to renewal must be reviewed and approved by the Department Head. Professional service agreements shall not be for a total term, including all renewals, of longer than five years.

E. DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITY

Department Heads have the responsibility, first and foremost, to manage their respective budgets as adopted by the Common Council. Department Heads must first determine whether the item or service to be acquired is a Purchase or a Public Works contract. Then, based on the estimated cost of that product or service and the charts, requesting Departments will provide any/all documentation required to make purchases. Quotes and Purchase Orders shall be completed by the requesting department and processed by the Finance Department **BEFORE** the purchase is made. Any purchase made that does not conform to these procedures is null and void and the employee responsible for the purchase may be subject to

disciplinary action including written warnings that could lead to personal financial responsibility for unauthorized purchases.

The attached flow chart (Exhibit B) is provided to assist Department Heads in fulfilling their obligations under this Policy

F. PROCUREMENT CARDS

The intent of the Procurement Card (P-Card) Program is to provide a streamlined process for the procurement of goods and services costing less than \$999.00 with a single purchase limit of \$999.00. The single purchase limit may be increased up to \$4,999.00 for certain departments and employees upon approval of the City Administrator, and the Commissioner of Finance or the Deputy Commissioner of Finance.

Department Heads are responsible for annually designating which employees are given P-Cards, distributing a Procurement Card Program Policy to each designated employee, enforcing the Procurement Card Program Policy, and confirming that all purchases made by the card are accounted for on an expense report.

All employees should refer to the separate Procurement Card Program Policy and are responsible for compliance. Failure to comply with reporting requirements will result in the suspension of P-Card privileges at the discretion of the Commissioner of Finance.

All New P-Card requests shall be submitted on the PCard Request form (see attached Exhibit C) and signed by the Department head and submitted to the Purchasing Agent. All employees issued a P-Card shall sign the P-Card Agreement annexed hereto as Exhibit D.

G. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

City employees are bound by General Municipal Law Article 18 "Conflict of Interest of Municipal Officers and Employees." Any City employee who has, will have, or acquires an interest in, any actual or proposed contract with the City of Poughkeepsie, shall publicly disclose the nature of such interest in writing to the Board of Contract Supply as soon as he/she has knowledge of and actual or prospective interest. This written disclosure will be made a part of the record of the Board of Contract Supply. If an officer or employee of the City of Poughkeepsie has reason to believe that he/she may have a conflict of interest, the office of the Corporation Counsel should be contacted and consulted immediately.

Employees shall not engage in outside employment which is inconsistent with their City responsibilities. For example, furnishing advice or services to a firm bidding on or planning to bid on a contract with the City of Poughkeepsie, or which is presently doing business with the City.

No employee, officer, agent, immediate family member, or Board member of the City of Poughkeepsie shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract with the City if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, is involved.

City of Poughkeepsie employees, officers, agents, or Board members will neither solicit nor accept gifts, gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to sub-

agreements with the City.

Employees occupying positions which are directly involved in the City of Poughkeepsie procurement process are required to disclose any interest in businesses which engage in bid activities with the City.

Failure to abide by these Standards of Conduct will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. If said employee is a member of a union and is bound by a collective bargaining agreement with the City of Poughkeepsie, the sanctions undertaken will be addressed within the agreement.

H. PURCHASING RESPONSIBILITY

The following individuals are responsible for purchasing and their respective titles are set forth below:

Joseph Vita – Interim Commissioner of Finance and Purchasing Agent of the City

Karen Sorrell – Deputy Commissioner of Finance

Shirley Davison – Purchasing Agent

Rebecca A. Valk – Corporation Counsel

I. KEY REFERENCES

1. New York State GML § 103- Goods and Services
2. GML 104- Services
3. State Finance Law § 163-Best Value
4. Article 23 of the Labor Law-Apprenticeship
5. Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subparts A through F)- Federal Funded
6. General Municipal Law Article 18

Bid Number:

EXHIBIT A

THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE

NEW YORK



SHIRLEY DAVISON

Purchasing Agent

TEL: (845) 451-4048

FAX: (845) 451-4028

REQUEST FOR BID FORM

Name of Bid: _____

Description of Project: _____

Type of Project (i.e. Federal, C.D.): _____

EFC Funded: Project # _____

MWBE Goal: _____

New World Project #: _____

Budget Line to be charged: _____

Estimate Cost: _____

Liquidated Damages: _____

Bonds: Bid Bond: Yes ☐ No ☐ Labor/ Performance Bond: Yes ☐ No ☐

Length of Contract: _____

Anticipated Date of Opening: _____

Contact Person: _____

Site Visit: Date & Location _____

Last Date for Questions: _____

Approved: _____

EXHIBIT B

Procurement and Contracting Flowchart Purchase Contracts

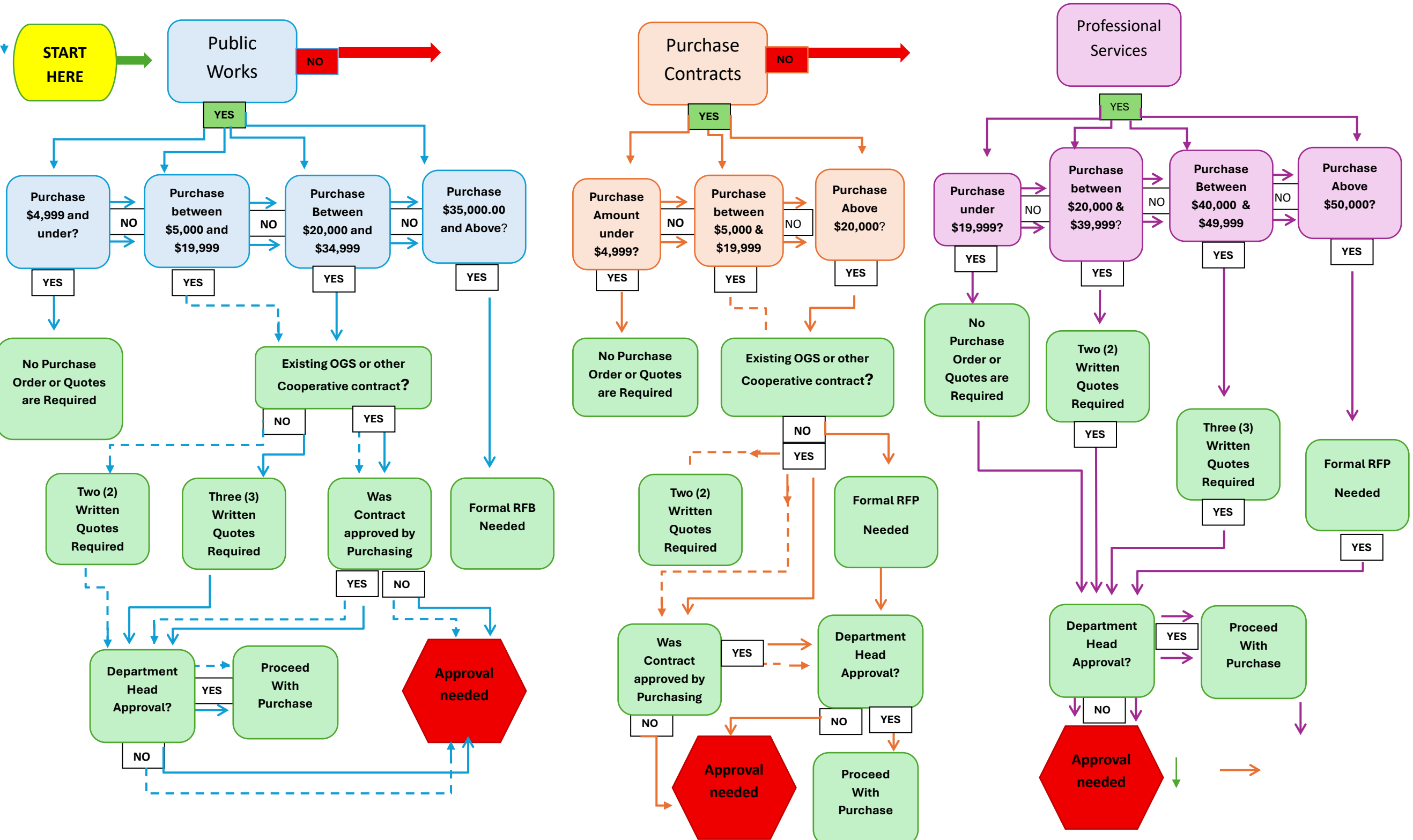


EXHIBIT C
CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
NEW PURCHASING CARD
REQUEST FORM

Submit this completed form to the Purchasing Department or sdavison@cityofpoughkeepsie.com

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Employee ID: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Title: _____ Email: _____

Department: _____ Position: _____

GL CODE DEFAULTS:

Fund Acct: ____ Department ____ Cost Center ____

Requested Monthly Limit \$ _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

Name: _____ Title: _____

APPROVAL:

I am requesting a P-Card account to be established for the employee identified above.

Department Head: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Ext: _____

FOR FINANCE & PURCHASING USE ONLY:

☐ P-Card Ordered

Date

Initials

☐ P-Card Received

Date

Initials

☐ P-Card Issued to Employee

Date

Initials

Finance Approval: _____ **Date Received:** _____

EXHIBIT D

City of Poughkeepsie
Procurement Cardholder Agreement

Name of Cardholder/Position/Title _____
Employee ID Number _____ Department _____
Phone _____

Cardholders agrees to accept responsibility for the proper use of the Procurement Card in accordance with the City of Poughkeepsie Procurement Card Policy including the following cardholder responsibilities:

- Participate in procurement card training before making purchases
- Insure confidentiality of account information
- Insure security and physical custody of the procurement card
- Be accountable for all transactions made with the card
- Comply with record keeping requirements
- Assure best price and delivery for goods purchased
- Obtain original itemized sales documents
- Insure that the purchases are tax exempt
- Insure funding is available for purchases and assign account codes
- Receive and inspect all ordered materials and services
- Timely reconciliation / match receipts to billing statement
- Review statement for validity of all transactions
- Make only authorized purchases – no cash advances, prohibited or personal items
- Report instances where the City's policies were not followed to the Purchasing Agent / Program Administrator
- Immediately notify the Program Administrator of a lost or stolen card by calling: Shirley Davison at 845-451-4048 and M&T Bank Customer Service at 1-800-443-8671.
- Surrender card immediately upon separation from employment or change of duties

Your signature acknowledges that you have received a procurement card. The procurement card represents the City's trust in you. You are empowered as a responsible agent to safeguard City assets and improper use of the card may be considered misappropriation of City funds. This may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Your signature below verifies that you have read and agree to comply with the City's purchasing and procurement card policies and procedures and that you acknowledge your responsibility for the repayment of purchases determined by the City of Poughkeepsie Administrative Committee to be improper.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Title: _____

2. **R-25-61**, Resolution Amending 2025 Budget to Reallocate Funding to Allow Chamberlain's Office to Purchase Office Equipment as Set forth in Schedule A

R E S O L U T I O N
(R-25-61)

SPONSORED BY CHAIRMAN WILSON, COUNCILMEMBER SHOOK, PATTERSON THOMPSON, MENIST, BROWN, GRANT AND MCCLINTON

WHEREAS, the Common Council by resolution R-24-89 adopted a budget for the fiscal year 2025 (the "2025 Budget"); and

WHEREAS, the Common Council wishes to amend the 2025 Budget to reallocate funding to allow the Chamberlain's office to purchase office equipment as set forth an Schedule A annexed hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2025 Budget adopted by the Common Council as Resolution R-24-89 is amended as shown on Schedule A, annexed hereto and made a part hereof.

SCHEDULE A

Budget Adjustment for Chamberlain Department

G/L	Increase	Decrease	Purpose
01-06-1410 7162	\$ -	\$ 2,500	Budget adjustment for purchase of Office Equipment for Chamberlain Department
01-06-1410 7410	\$ -	\$ 500	
01-06-4020 7405	\$ -	\$ 400	
01-06-1410 7201	\$ 3,400		

TOTAL \$ 3,400 \$ 3,400

IX. CONSENT AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

X. ACTION AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

XI. ACTION AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

XII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Thank you Chair. Okay, there's several things here. Well, one, you know I congratulate Mr. Atonna and also Councilmember Henry on your primary wins. And also, congratulations to Ms. McClinton on your appointment to the Democratic Chair. I've done a lot of work with you throughout the years, being that you've been born and raised here. I've seen the work that you have done and the school board and throughout the community. So, I know the council made a good choice when they did appoint you. So, I don't doubt that whatsoever. So, thank you for the work you have been doing and I know you'll be doing much more work in this community. So, I look forward to working with you in any capacity that you have in this committee.

Also, I know it came up - it was Suprina - on Main Street with the flyers on the doors and the windows. So, our building department, you know, we have a team that's going block by block on Main Street and they are citing or not citing, but there is supposed to be having conversations with individuals, letting them know things that are possible violations and then to let people know to rectify that. And there has been, because of complaints that people are being - coming to us in regards to things that have been happening on Main Street. Some people take the flyers and they cover all the windows with all these flyers and then they don't remove them either. And I appreciate the fact that you're really trying to promote these events that are in the City of Poughkeepsie, because not everybody goes online, so we have to do a better way of being able to get that out, and I appreciate your business doing that. And we do encourage the businesses to pass out flyers as people come through and find a way to do that. But posting them all on the doors could cause a problem. But, I'm hoping that knowing if for someone to tell you in order to do that, you have to pay for each one to go on there, we'd like to get to the bottom of that because, one, that's ridiculous, and two, you know, that wasn't something that they should have been conveying to you. So, we will have conversations in regards to that. And it was supposed to be a way to show because people have been doing what they want on Main Street for a very long time. And, if we're going to revitalize this Main Street and try to move towards more economic growth, we have to make sure that it's appealing for people to want to open up a business. So, you know, individuals are out there that are not conducting in that way and they should. We're looking at other ways of working with the council to ensure people who are operating these businesses on Main Street and causing more of an issue and a problem that they're being addressed, including some of these bars and bodegas, so we are addressing that as well. So, we're hoping with this initiative, it would help, but we also don't want to penalize good businesses that are out there that are really trying to help. So, [we'll] work with you in any way we can, and thank you for bringing that to our attention. We appreciate that.

Also, too, there was the talk, Mr. Aman, that you brought up about Westchester Medical Center or Mid Hudson Regional. I did have a conversation with them when the investigation report

came out a while ago. So, when it came out, they did reach out to this administration. We did have conversations in regards to it. This was in response to an investigation into a suicide that happened back around the pandemic time where, unfortunately, the person left from there and committed suicide. And so I'm glad the report was done and an investigation was done because of the fact it did unravel some things and expose some things that were happening where people were being released out into - here - in the City of Poughkeepsie after coming even from other places without a real plan. So they did assure us that they are working on plans for individuals. Also, too, they have to - they had to submit a report to the Attorney General about what that plan is. So, that is something that we did have a discussion about. And they are working also with the county because of some of the services that are there, but the county has...individuals has told me too that once they contact them, they also find out if they're able to go back to where they came from because some to the individuals are coming from other counties, coming from other areas, and, it's like you're coming here to receive those mental health services, but, you know, to get the person back on track but to be able to so they can go back and to be able to operate, you know and be able to survive in their own municipality. And that was something that they were guaranteed or so there has been conversations in regards to that. I know that's been a concern, especially with the shelter, you know, the plans of the shelter being here. So, just to know that we are having those conversations.

Also, too, it came up about the cleaning of Main Street. Councilmember Grant, thank you for bringing this up. I know you're out there on Main Street so you see the work that DPW is doing. They work very hard on Main Street and it's not their fault that they're out there cleaning and then people want to just throw trash out there. So, I think our businesses need to contribute as well because some of this garbage is in front of their business. And, some of these businesses are contributing to the garbage on Main Street, especially the ones that are operating throughout the evening and you wake up in the morning and you see the trash everywhere.

So, we're trying to work with those individuals. So this administration and why it was gone, this administration has been putting in a lot of time and trying to do things to revitalize Main Street, cleaning up Main Street so that way it can be more appealing to individuals that are riding down Main Street including continuous street outreach for the homeless individuals that were on Main Street that some of them have come back to Main Street. So, they're still working with those individuals.

I think in the last year and a half, we've been doing a lot, you know, I appreciate your efforts in it. But I do, you know, want to be mindful that our DPW staff, even our police department and our fire department has been strict as well. But they've been doing an excellent job out there, considering the efforts that were being made before.

So, I just want to make sure we are clear that we're not ignoring what's happening on Main Street, that we are - it's a continuous effort. And I praise the staff and I praise the administration for the way they've been handling it. It is not an easy job.

So, and like I said, you know, that for yourself because you walk on Main Street and you have talked to business owners about trying to get them more involved. So this is a collaborative effort for all of us. It's not just on this administration. It's not just on this councilmember. It's a

community effort to make sure that our Main Street is presentable and it is clean.

So, we will continue to work together to make that happen. But I just want to make sure everyone knows that our staff has been doing what they can and has been working very hard on Main Street.

Did you want to say something?

Councilmember Grant: I don't doubt that DPW is working hard, and I'm not saying that they're ignoring Main Street, I'm just asking for a little more. And that also, I agree with you, that's on the community members and the business owners as well. But from my seat where I am, I could directly communicate with the administration first, so...

Mayor Flowers: Right. But it was the comment that you made as if we're not making it a priority or we're putting the effort into it and I'll let you respond to the way it came out. That's the way he came about.

City Administrator Donat: I perceived it that way as well too, so thank you Mayor. As stated publicly previously, DPW is out on Main Street multiple times each day doing this work. I am not sure what else we could do. I would encourage you and the Council to take this into consideration during the budget process if you wish to add more people to DPW.

Councilmember Grant: Thank you for that. And again, I never said that it was being ignored and I didn't want to perceive that. I'm just asking if there's something more we can do. So, if you felt that way, even last week when I asked about it, I wish you would have said that you felt the way so I could have clarified what I meant.

Mayor Flowers: Oh, I didn't notice came up last week, but I just what you said today, it came out that way. So I just want to clarify that.

Thank you. Also, too, I want to congratulate Scenic Hudson on the opening of their Northside hub. So if you haven't got a chance to see it, please go by there. It's over by the Walkway. I'm looking forward to the community programs that are going to happen in that site. And I thank them for investing in the city of Poughkeepsie, and especially on the north side in the efforts that we're trying to revitalize that particular area. So, it's a great investment and it was a great addition to the city of Poughkeepsie, so I thank them for that.

As it was brought out today, this is my first day back. Many of you know I had a hip replacement surgery. I think it went pretty well. Unfortunately, during that time period, I also lost my brother unexpectedly. So, I'm going to thank everyone who came out, who contacted me, who gave me the encouragement that I need to get through that time period. It was not easy for - still not easy for - me and my family, but I have to say that I was able to spend time with my family while recovering and dealing with that knowing that the city was in good hands.

I have to thank all of the council members, I've seen you out there, was online watching everything that you were doing out there between the events, just working together. It was good to see.

And I'm - thank you, Joe Donat for stepping in as acting mayor. You did an excellent job and I appreciate that, the work that you've done. I also thank my assistant Stacey Bottoms for holding things down as well. I appreciate you keeping me in the loop and I thank our City Chamberlain, Jamar Cummings, also for stepping up and doing other outside of your normal duties. You did very well when it came down to the 26 Oakley Street public forum. Get me to, you know, come outside and do a video that was really put together really well so, I thank everybody's effort who pulled together to make that happen and I was so proud to see the councilmembers, you know, majority of you there at the county meeting coming together in solidarity to actually express the concerns that we had when it came down to Oakley Street. So, that's the kind of unity that I really enjoy seeing. I do thank you. It was so proud to see, you know, even though I'm sitting over on the sidelines, but it was really good to see that happening. So, moving forward, I hope that, you, know, we continue to have that solidarity on the council.

And I know, you know, we're not always going to agree on things and what, but we find ways to work that out and to respect each other in a way that we should. So, I really do appreciate that. So thank you.

And that's it.

Thank you, Chair.

XIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

First, I'd like to thank everyone for coming out, thank everybody for tuning in. Thank you for everyone that participated in our public comments.

I want to thank, once again, and reiterate Mr. Donat for stepping in as a mayor, as a city administrator, and fulfilling those roles. Welcome back to our mayor as well. I want to congratulate Mr. Henry, of course, on his win. Congratulate Mr. Atonna on his eighth ward - as our Democratic eighth ward candidate.

I also want to thank all of our Poughkeepsie High School graduates, those that came and worked hard, the families that supported them and was able to go overcome many, many obstacles here throughout this, you know, these were, for those that might not remember, these were the COVID children. So they were the class that went out in sixth grade during COVID and then didn't come back until about ninth or 10th grade. So a lot of that gap and for them to come back and still overcome a lot of those obstacles and work hard to be part of the graduating class of 2025 is definitely commendable.

I want to thank all the councilmembers as well for attending all the events and trying to make sure that there's somebody there representing throughout the city community and working

together. The high school grads.

And then also I want to congratulate our city government, our city administration, working hard.

Came through here for the senior walk as well. It was welcomed. The city people, city workers, the students and everything were received very well and very appreciative.

You know, a lot of people, I just want to also reiterate one thing that we keep hearing, you know, people keep coming to say, you know Juneteenth and things like that and celebrating African spirit and saying it's unity. They say that but in the same breath and then on the flip side, we're living in a double side, on the flip side, then they say [the] opposite. And I want us to all just keep remembering. Every time we pull at that thread of our fabric, of our society, when we claim democracy, it's universal. And when we look at our current City of Poughkeepsie, once again, you know, we can say Sakima McClinton, but this is really bigger than Sakima McClinton.

You know, certain wards, certain wards have certain stigmas and certain things to them. And we need to really start listening to what we are saying. When we start saying things across the board. Because in one breath, we say we're all together, but in another breath, we say other things. Because last I checked, I'm a history professor, not professor, history, former history teacher. I did a lot of, you know, studies. Last I checked, anybody, not just anybody, but a West Point graduate in the United States of America has the same qualifications and has been, there have been former West Point graduates to be the president of the United States.

So when I drive to Newburgh, I see the big Pat Ryan sign up there for being recognized as a West Point grad representing this area and as Congress. So to say that somebody that is a West Point grad is not qualified for a local government position. I'm not really sure what we're really saying. I mean, I'm not really sure what we're saying. And we say Juneteenth, and I'm going to end on this, we say Juneteenth, we recommend that, and we say all that. But just to let people know, we don't have to keep showing our freedom papers anymore. We don't. That's the whole reason. We don't have to keep showing our freedom papers anymore, and if we're going to live in this double society or the double standard, then let's be honest about it and not try to pretend like it's anything else but that.

And people have spoken and we recognize and we hear it and we see exactly what you're saying, with your actions.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:23 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown and seconded by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson.

Dated: July 7, 2025

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, July 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. DeLuca
Deputy City Chamberlain