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Committee Assignments: Budget & Appropriations Community Services Economic Development Energy & Environment Legislation

**John G. Testa** Legislator, 1<sup>st</sup> District Minority Leader

> For Immediate Release: March 6, 2017 Contact: Matt Richter, BOL Communications Director 646-302-2220, <u>mjr3@westchestergov.com</u>

## Republican Legislators, Police Union Announce 5 County Police Positions to be Filled

On Monday, the bipartisan Coalition of Legislators who passed the no-tax-increase 2017 county budget, applauded County Executive Rob Astorino for moving to fill 5 Westchester County Police Officer positions. The County Executive signed the Vacancy Releases earlier on Monday which makes it possible to fill the positions within about two weeks. The hirings were part of a budget compromise reached between the bipartisan coalition of Legislators and the County Executive.

Minority Leader John Testa, (R) Peekskill said, "Bolstering the ranks of our County Police Force was a key negotiating point for the Republican Caucus during budget discussions this year. I thank the County executive for acting quickly and in good faith to fulfill this promise."

Westchester County Police Benevolent Association President Michael Hagan thanked the Legislators who voted for the budget saying, "I appreciate the hard work of the Legislators to make these 5 hires happen. I look forward to continuing to work with the BOL to fill the remaining 10 vacant positions."

Legislator Sheila Marcotte (R) Eastchester, New Rochelle is Chair of the BOL Budget and Appropriations Committee. "These new hires demonstrate that although we may prioritize things differently, if we focus on compromise and cooperation, we can work together to provide all the services and programs that our residents rely on while still protecting taxpayers." Marcotte said. "I look forward to working with the County Executive throughout the remainder of this budget year to find additional savings to help Westchester County operate efficiently, with public safety and security as a top priority."

BOL Vice-Chairman Jim Maisano (R) New Rochelle said, "Protecting taxpayers is our number one priority. The Board of Legislators will continue to ensure that our Department of Public Safety Continues to operate at the proper staffing levels."

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