



Tompkins County Legislature

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 09/05/17 05:30 PM
Department: County Administration
Category: Public Safety
Functional Category: Jail

SCHEDULED

RESOLUTION NO. DOC ID: 7245

1 **Accepting the “Assessment of the Future of the Tompkins County**
2 **Jail” Report and Commending the Center of Governmental Research**
3 **for its Thorough and Thoughtful Work”**

4 WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 234 of 2016, and in response to the possible revocation of an 18-bed variance
5 at the Tompkins County Jail by the New York State Department of Corrections, this Legislature commissioned a
6 “Criminal Justice/Jail Population Trends Assessment” by the Rochester-based Center for Governmental Research
7 (“CGR”) to analyze the current and projected population of the County’s Jail, incorporating the several current,
8 pending, and potential activities intended to reduce the jail population, and
9

10 WHEREAS, the CGR study involved a combination of qualitative information obtained in interview and focus
11 group discussions, and extensive quantitative analyses of empirical data obtained from the jail, Probation, other
12 agencies and various ATI and community-based programs, and
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14 WHEREAS, during the course of the study, CGR conducted interviews with more than 125 individuals
15 broadly representative of and knowledgeable about the local community and the Jail and criminal justice system and
16 also met with the Jail Study Committee, the Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives-to-Incarceration Board, two
17 groups of persons with direct experience as defendants in the local criminal justice system and as inmates in the local
18 jail, and participated in a Jail Study Committee-sponsored town meeting at which about 20 speakers offered various
19 perspectives on our study and the future of the County Jail, and
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21 WHEREAS, numerous quantitative analyses were undertaken, most prominently including detailed
22 independent analyses of data provided by the County Jail and by the Department of Probation and Community Justice,
23 as well as data obtained and analyzed from various County and community-based agencies and from New York State
24 Offices including the Division of Criminal Justice Services, Commission of Correction, Office of Court
25 Administration, and Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, and
26

27 WHEREAS, based on the findings derived from this qualitative and quantitative analysis, CGR provided
28 approximately 25 recommendations that, if implemented, provide an opportunity to appreciably reduce the population
29 of the Tompkins County Jail, and
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31 WHEREAS, this Legislature finds that CGR fully met its charge and has provided many well-substantiated
32 recommendations, and
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34 WHEREAS, it is the commitment of this Legislature to pursue policies and programs such as those
35 recommended by CGR in order to reduce Jail population as the alternative to expanding the capacity of the Jail, now
36 therefore be it
37

38 RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Jail Study Committee, That this Legislature accepts the July 2017
39 Report by the Center for Governmental Research titled “An Assessment of the Future of the Tompkins County Jail”
40 and commends its authors for their thorough and thoughtful work.

41 **SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**