



NEWS FROM THE ULSTER COUNTY COMPTROLLER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PERSONAL VEHICLE USE COSTS COUNTY OVER \$340,000.00 COMPTROLLER Measure 2 Manage REPORT ON MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

KINGSTON, NY (January 26, 2009)... Ulster County Comptroller Elliott Auerbach released his second Measure 2 Manage Report for 2010. This one highlighting annual mileage expenses reimbursed to county employees using their personally owned vehicles while on county business.

“Over the past three years County employees have travelled over 600,000 miles a year with the county spending an average of \$347,000 in mileage reimbursements annually,” said Auerbach. “A large portion of that expense is directed at two departments in the county, Social Services and Public Health,” the Comptroller pointed out.

“While Ulster County owns a fleet of vehicles for use by staff, there may be an under utilization of the resources that result in the high cost of reimbursement.” “We expect this data to initiate analysis by departments regarding the economy, effectiveness and efficiency of the use of County vehicles as compared to the costs of reimbursement for mileage of personally-owned vehicles,” explained Auerbach.

The report data provides both the number of miles traveled and the cost of those miles to the County, by department or office, for the period January 1 – June 30, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

The report includes two spreadsheets. One reflects trends over time and comparison between departments. The second provides detail to support departmental level analysis.

Auerbach noted that in sharing this report with the County Executive and the Legislature he raised concerns regarding the lack of a Personal Vehicle Use Policy which would address issues of responsibility and authority including vehicle ownership, condition and adequacy of insurance coverage.

“We want to ensure that both the County and its employees are adequately protected, especially those who carry passengers in the line of duty. Likewise, we believe the County can better manage its expenses by instituting a Personal Vehicle Use Policy,” said Auerbach.

The Measure 2 Manage series of reports are snap shots portraying the use of County resources designed to help Ulster County departments and offices manage their resources.

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The mission of the Ulster County Comptroller's Office is to serve as an independent agency of the people and to protect the public interest by monitoring County government and to assess and report on the degree to which its operation is economical, efficient and its financial condition sound.