



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

December 18, 2019

Honorable Rebecca Edwards
Dutchess County Legislator, District 6
22 Market St.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dear Legislator Edwards:

Chairman Pulver has asked me to respond to the concerns you raised under "Other County Business" at the December 16th meeting of the County Legislature. Below are my responses.

Restricting Certain Transactions to Dutchess County Residents.

Dutchess County DMV offers more access to more services for more hours in more locations than any of our neighboring counties and beyond. With the enactment of the Green Light Law (GLL), Orange County has chosen to limit GLL transactions to its Goshen office. Putnam offers GLL transactions by appointment only. Ulster provides services in Kingston and mobile services in Marlboro on Monday and New Paltz on Thursday for 4.5 hours each. It has been reported that on Monday NYS DMV officials in Peekskill were directing clients to our Beacon office because of the extremely long lines there.

The GLL requires applicants who do not have a valid or expired (for less than 2 years) license to apply for the learner's permit test. By 10:30 or so, we had 87 applicants for permits waiting on line. Based on our experience, we decided to accept no further permit applications for the day. Our last applicant sat for the test shortly after 4 pm and finished at 4:50 pm.

Based on the current demand and the relative accessibility of Dutchess County testing sites, we have chosen to prioritize Dutchess County residents, regardless of their immigration status. As the initial demand subsides, we will continue to monitor and re-evaluate this option.

Wait Times

You referenced wait times being mentioned recently. Wait times in Dutchess peaked in mid-October. We were fortunate to hire 6 new clerks in September, half of whom are fluent in Spanish. As they received training and became integrated in our work flow, wait times diminished dramatically. Clearly when NYS decides to make 900,000 residents eligible for licensing,

processing and wait times across NYS will increase. It is my hope that as initial demand is met and as the REAL ID requirement is met on October 1, 2020, wait times will diminish.

Revenue and the Need for Additional Employees

More customers and more transactions may increase revenue, but they also increase expenses. NYS current practice of sharing 12.7% of transaction revenue does not fully fund Dutchess County DMV operations. In 2018, Dutchess County DMV expenditures exceeded revenue by \$241,000 and that doesn't include in-kind services such as building space, heat and electric in Beacon and Poughkeepsie. In 2019 we expect the deficit to be approximately \$250,000.


For instance, one of our high performing clerks processed 17 fee transactions netting the county \$100. Her pay rate is \$159 per day plus benefits and office overhead. Prior to GLL she averaged 40 transactions per day.

The math simply doesn't work. If we receive \$10 for license transactions that cost us \$30 to \$40 to process, the more work we do, the more we lose.

As to the need for additional employees, we will continue to evaluate our work flow and physical facilities. We greatly appreciate the 3 additional positions the Legislature approved in 2018. It has been a tremendous help.

I hope you find this information helpful in understanding why the restriction was put in place. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Bradford H. Kendall
Dutchess County Clerk

C: Chairman Greg Pulver
Dutchess County Legislature