

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER VALLEY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Resolution No. RVR-13-04-05

April 30, 2013

**SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF  
THE ST. LAWRENCE PSYCHIATRIC CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Office of Mental Health is proposing a reduction in the number of inpatient psychiatric hospital beds, and

**WHEREAS**, the plan would include designating certain hospitals for closure, and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, located in Ogdensburg, New York provides a comprehensive range of residential programs including Children/Youth Services, Adult Services and a Sex Offender Treatment Program, and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center has a distinguished history of providing services to those in need from the North Country and throughout New York State for over 100 years, and

**WHEREAS**, St. Lawrence County has a long history of assisting New York State by welcoming and caring for those being treated at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center is the only such facility in this part of the State, and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center provides high quality care for residents of this region for whom travel and access to other facilities outside of this region would be a hardship, and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center employees approximately 500 people, and

**WHEREAS**, these employees reside in the North Country, make purchases here, and support our local businesses, thereby contributing to the local economy and making our region a better place to live and raise a family, and

**WHEREAS**, in the past few years the General Motors plant in Massena, New York closed, putting over 500 people out of work, the Newton Falls Fine Paper Mill closed, leaving 100 people without jobs, the zinc and talc mines in the Gouverneur area have greatly reduced their operations, costing over 200 job losses, and numerous cutbacks and layoffs at local hospitals and schools have further strained the North Country economy, placing an unprecedented demand on human, health and social services in our region, and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of jobs and payroll at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center would create an economic climate that will contribute even further to the need for the services that would be taken out of this area by the Center's closure or reduction of services, and

**WHEREAS**, the current condition of the over 500,000 square feet of vacant and deteriorating buildings that were formerly used by the Psychiatric Center is a clear indication that there is no market or reasonable expectation for the adaptive reuse of any additional buildings currently being used by the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center should they be closed, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency urges our regional elected representatives to oppose any plan that would involve the closure or reduction in services of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, United States Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, United States Congressman Owens, New York Senators Little, Griffo and Ritchie, and New York Assembly Members Duprey, Russell, Butler and Blankenbush.

Move:	Burns			
Second:	Carroll			
<b>VOTE</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Burns	X			
Carroll	X			
McNeil	X			
Murphy	X			
Strait				X

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared this copy of this Resolution with the original record in this office, and that the same is a correct transcript thereof and of the whole of said original record.

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Natalie A. Sweatland  
April 30, 2013