

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Resolution No. IDA-24-02-02

February 27, 2024

**SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County has a long history of seeking, welcoming, and supporting New York State Correctional Facilities, and

WHEREAS, this support of the New York State Correctional system enabled the State to find locations for its facilities at times when other communities were not willing to accept these facilities, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Correctional Facilities in St. Lawrence County continue to enjoy unmatched local support from not only the host communities of Gouverneur and Ogdensburg, but also from the greater St. Lawrence County and North Country regions, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Correctional Facilities in St. Lawrence County have distinguished themselves for decades due to the safety, efficiency, programming for incarcerated individuals, and the overall high standards of their operations, and

WHEREAS, the two correctional facilities combined provide over \$60 million in payroll and provide for over 700 jobs, and

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

WHEREAS, with higher property values and more robust environments for commercial activity other areas of the State offer more opportunity for the adaptive reuse of closed facilities, and

WHEREAS, such facilities, in more expensive areas of the State, have historically been easier to redevelop, in so doing add to the tax base and economic vitality of the State, and

WHEREAS, there are already 500,000 square feet of abandoned State-owned buildings in St. Lawrence County which were formerly part of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center as well as another 500,000 square feet of vacant space at the recently closed Ogdensburg Correctional Facility, and

WHEREAS, these buildings, left abandoned and unused, provide no economic value either locally or to the State and, along with an additional six other closed state prisons in the North Country, are a clear demonstration of the difficulty repurposing closed State facilities in this region, and

WHEREAS, the additional loss of jobs and payroll if another State Correctional Facility were to close in St. Lawrence County would be another devastating blow to what is already one of the most economically distressed areas of New York State, and

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WHEREAS, the operation of New York State Correctional Facilities in St. Lawrence County has been beneficial both to New York State and to St. Lawrence County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency strongly supports the continued operation of the Gouverneur and Riverview Correctional Facilities and urges New York State to actively maintain, market, and redevelop the numerous other correctional facilities which it has closed in the North Country, including the former Ogdensburg Correctional Facility, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to New York Governor Kathy Hochul, New York Senators Stec and Walczyk, and New York Assembly Members Blankenbush, Gray, and Jones.

Move:	Reagen			
Second:	LaBaff			
VOTE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Blevins	X			
Hall	X			
LaBaff	X			
McMahon				X
Reagen	X			
Staples	X			
Morrill				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.

/s/

Lori Sibley
February 27, 2024