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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Coughlan Demands County Comptroller “Get Off The Sidelines”**

### **Lack of Basic Oversight Destroys Transparency and Accountability**

Comptroller-candidate Jim Coughlan demanded that the current Dutchess County Comptroller’s office “get off the sidelines” after a week of silence from her office following the County Legislature’s approval of a resolution seeking the state Authority Budget Office review five Dutchess County government agencies.

“The County Comptroller’s Office needs to get off the sidelines and into the game,” demanded Mr. Coughlan. “How can our County Comptroller remain silent for over a week after revelations that three out of five agencies that she is supposed to be overseeing appear not to have met minimum State required compliance issues? This lack of basic oversight destroys the fiscal transparency and accountability demanded by law.”

The County Legislature has approved a resolution that asks the state to review five agencies that are required to submit minimum documentation to the state according to the Public Authorities Act. The Act requires agencies to submit annual reports, as well as reports on budgets, audits, investments and procurements or contracts. In addition, agency board members must complete state-approved training on corporate governance, the understanding of financial statements and other topics.

A number of agencies still need to submit documentation from 2007 and 2008.

“The fact that a Legislator from the Democratic side of the aisle asked for the State to circumvent the activities of a Democratic Comptroller shows that this is a very large problem,” stated Mr. Coughlan. “We need a Comptroller that sees this position as more than a game of “political-gotcha” and instead assists these agencies in meeting their requirements.”

Mr. Coughlan is an attorney with years of experience on both the international and domestic stage in finance, tax and corporate law. He speaks both Mandarin and Japanese, has a law degree from Roger Williams College and is a member of both the New York and Massachusetts state bars.

Jim, 41, and his wife Sharon were married in 2008 and live in Rhinecliff , New York .

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