

**For Immediate Release:
Monday, July 27, 2009**

**Contact: Jim Coughlan
(845) 802-6684**

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coughlan Questions Comptroller's Inaction "We are faced with a County crisis"

County Comptroller candidate Jim Coughlan continues to question the silence and inaction of County Comptroller Diane Jablonski following last week's circumvention by the Dutchess County Legislature's of her office and today's memo by County Executive Bill Steinhaus citing "her failure to perform the duties and obligations of her job."

"We are faced with a County crisis – How can the Comptroller remain silent and do nothing when County Legislature asks the State to come in and do her job?" asked Mr. Coughlan.

"Any way you spin this, you come up with the same conclusion that the County Comptroller simply isn't doing her job. Either she should have done compliance audits on these agencies previously or she should have been in contact with the Legislature to follow-up on their concerns. She has done neither" states Mr. Coughlan.

Mr. Coughlan demanded action by the Comptroller's office last week following a request by the County Legislature to bring in the state Authority Budget Office to audit five Dutchess County government agencies, a role exclusively reserved in the County Charter for the Office of the Comptroller.

County Charter

Section 20.02, paragraphs (f) and (g) of the Dutchess County Charter provide that the County Comptroller "*submit reports to the County Executive or County Legislature in such form and detail and at such times as either may require*" and "*have all the powers and perform all the duties conferred or imposed by law upon a county comptroller, and perform such other related duties required by the County Executive or the County Legislature* [emphasis added].

In addition, in a June, 2009 press release from the Comptroller's office, it was explicitly stated that the Comptroller conducts the type of review being requested by the County Legislature.

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.

###