

FINAL

Town of Van Buren
Resolution of the Town Board

Date: March 15, 2016

Whereas, Consensus, the Commission of Local Government Modernization issued its' preliminary report and committee recommendations in January 2016; and

Whereas, the Consensus Commission issued some 51 recommendations covering infrastructure, public safety, municipal operations, economic development and governance, including a proposal to merge city and county governments; and

Whereas, the Consensus Commission has solicited public comment and feedback; and

Whereas, we, the elected officials of the Town of Van Buren are charged with operating our Town and delivering the services our constituents need and expect through local home rule; and

Whereas, the Town of Van Buren has been a leader in Onondaga County for consolidation and shared services having merged the post of Tax Receiver with the Town Clerk; created an assessment CAP with the Town of Lysander; contracted with the Town of Camillus for dog control services; share a comptroller with the Town of Salina; merged our Zoning and Planning Boards and by merging four (4) fire districts; and

Whereas many of the Consensus recommendations have some merit; and

Whereas, the City of Syracuse, County of Onondaga and the numerous Towns and Villages currently have the ability and authority to adopt and implement many of these desired recommendations in and amongst themselves; and

Whereas many of the ills that have fallen on the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County have come about due to national and state level practices which inhibit growth, expansion and prosperity in all fashions; and

Whereas the Consensus Commission recommendation to merge the City and County governments and to infer that this will reverse these trends is illogical and ill-conceived; and

Whereas schools and education have purposely been avoided in this report; and

Whereas it has been mentioned by a Commission member that a coterminous, common city/county boundary could be utilized with a metro government structure, we as the elected officials in a rural town know this would result in many negative impacts for most towns in the county by way of curtailing what are currently legal uses of rural property such as hunting, trapping, and shooting, not to mention potential impacts on agriculture and farming; and

Whereas the 80 page Consensus Report does not provide any financial justification and raises far more questions than it provides in answers,

NOW THEREFORE, let it be known that the Town of Van Buren Town Board is unanimously opposed to the concept of a merged city/county government as presented.