

RESOLUTION NO. 116

**URGING STORE OWNERS IN ALBANY COUNTY TO STOP SELLING
“ROSE TUBES” USED AS PIPES TO SMOKE CRACK COCAINE**

Introduced: 3/12/07

By Mr. Shafer and the Albany County Legislature:

WHEREAS, A “rose tube” is a four-inch-long glass tube the width of a ballpoint pen containing a small fake rose that appears to the unknowing observer to be an innocuous novelty item, and

WHEREAS, The tubes most often are sold for about \$2 at convenience stores, gas stations and mom-and-pop stores and, whether or not the store owners and clerks know it, are used by addicts to smoke crack cocaine, and

WHEREAS, In some cases, the rose tubes are found on the counter with cigarette lighters or kept behind the counter along with packs of cigarettes, and

WHEREAS, Drug users remove the rose and the corks at either end of the tube, insert a piece of scouring pad or wiry sponge and smoke heated crack cocaine through the tube, and

WHEREAS, Rose tubes have become a preferred vehicle for smoking crack cocaine because they are convenient, easily carried in a pocket or purse and more fashionable than other crack smoking devices such as discarded soda cans or car antennas, and

WHEREAS, Because rose tubes have a cover as a legitimate novelty item and if not sold with illicit drugs, they do not qualify as drug paraphernalia prohibited under New York State law, and

WHEREAS, Store owners who sell the rose tubes should be made aware of their illicit use and feel an obligation as a responsible member of the community to stop selling them, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature urges store owners in Albany County to make themselves aware of the illicit use of rose tubes and become responsible members of the community by ridding their stores of the tubes and refusing to sell them, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 3/12/07