



Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive

June 30, 2025

Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Honorable Members of the Board of Legislators:

Attached for your consideration is a Local Law, which, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the "County") to enter into intermunicipal agreements ("IMAs") with municipal corporations as defined in Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law and located both within and outside of the physical boundaries of Westchester County (collectively the "Participating Municipalities"), in order to establish a new Mutual Aid and Rapid Response Plan for the police departments of the Participating Municipalities (the "Plan"). The purpose of the Plan is to formalize operational procedures for law enforcement assistance between Participating Municipalities. The Plan would only be utilized in those instances when the police response necessitated by the event is beyond the capability of a requesting municipality. The term of the IMAs shall be five (5) years commencing on July 31, 2025 and continuing through July 30, 2030.

Local Law No. 6-1989 authorized the County to enter into IMAs with municipalities located in Westchester in order to effectuate the original Plan. Thereafter, IMAs were subsequently authorized by your Honorable Board to establish updated versions of the Plan. As your Honorable Board may recall, the current IMAs were authorized by Local Law 13-2020, the IMAs were subsequently executed, and are due to expire on July 30, 2025.

Participating Municipalities make their police personnel and equipment available to each other in accordance with the Plan when an emergency condition exists which is beyond the scope of an individual municipality's police resources. The County's Department of Public Safety Services (the "Department") can also provide police services during emergency conditions as part of the Plan.

The Department has advised that prevailing world and national security situations, constantly increasing diverse incidents including health epidemics, the ever increasing flow of intelligence, and actual threats directed against once benign sites and facilities necessitate that the operational plans annexed to the proposed IMAs be flexible and subject to revision. Ongoing strategic and

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White Plains, New York 10601

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tactical planning by the law enforcement professionals who will execute the Plan is essential. Based upon the forgoing, it is essential that the IMAs provide that the approved Plan be flexible. Toward this end, revisions to the proposed Plan will be approved and implemented by the Participating Municipalities through the Westchester County Chiefs of Police Association, which would be granted authority by their respective municipalities to amend the Plan as necessary during the term of the IMAs. The governing bodies of the Participating Municipalities would continue to retain budgetary authority over their respective police departments and thus, control the amount of resources that can be devoted to the Plan. However, these IMAs would grant authority to the Westchester County Chiefs of Police Association to determine the operational details of the Plan without need for legislative authorization each time an amendment to the Plan is required. In addition, should any additional municipalities located outside of Westchester County wish to be a part of the Plan, the Westchester County Chiefs of Police Association shall be further authorized to amend the Plan in order to add those new municipalities.

Pursuant to New York General Municipal Law Section 209-m, the chief executive officer of a local government, whenever he or she deems that the public interest requires it, may request that the chief executive officer of any other local government detail, assign and make available for duty and use in the local government for which the request is made any part of the forces, equipment and supplies of the police department, police force or parkway police force of the local government of which the request is made. The chief executive officer of the local government of which the request is made is authorized and empowered to grant the request so made. Furthermore, a local government may, by local law, delegate to the chief of police of its police department or police force the aforementioned powers granted to a chief executive officer to request and grant police assistance. The proposed Local Law, if approved by your Honorable Board, will delegate to the Commissioner/Sheriff of the Department the powers granted to the County Executive as chief executive officer to request and grant police assistance under New York General Municipal Law Section 209-m.

Approval of the local law submitted herewith would be an important step toward furthering the County's commitment to provide a Police Mutual Aid and Rapid Response Plan to serve the needs of the County and the participating municipalities. Accordingly, I request and recommend your favorable action on the proposed Local Law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KWJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive

KWJ/jpi
Attachments

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK**

Your Committee is in receipt of legislation which, if adopted, would authorize the County of Westchester (the “County”) to enter into intermunicipal agreements (“IMAs”) with municipal corporations as defined in Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law and located both within and outside of the physical boundaries of Westchester County (collectively the “Participating Municipalities”), in order to establish a new Mutual Aid and Rapid Response Plan for the police departments of the Participating Municipalities (the “Plan”). The purpose of the Plan is to formalize operational procedures for law enforcement assistance between Participating Municipalities. The Plan would only be utilized in those instances when the police response necessitated by the event is beyond the capability of a requesting municipality. The term of the IMAs shall be five (5) years commencing on July 31, 2025 and continuing through July 30, 2030.

Your Committee has been informed that Local Law No. 6-1989 authorized the County to enter into IMAs with municipalities located in Westchester in order to effectuate the original Plan. Thereafter, IMAs were subsequently authorized by your Honorable Board to establish updated versions of the Plan. As your Honorable Board may recall, the current IMAs were authorized by Local Law 13-2020, the IMAs were subsequently executed, and are due to expire on July 30, 2025.

The Department has advised that Participating Municipalities make their police personnel and equipment available to each other in accordance with the Plan when an emergency condition

exists which is beyond the scope of an individual municipality's police resources. The County's Department of Public Safety Services ("Department") can also provide police services during emergency conditions as part of the Plan.

The Department has further advised that prevailing world and national security situations, constantly increasing diverse incidents including health epidemics, the ever increasing flow of intelligence, and actual threats directed against once benign sites and facilities necessitate that the operational plans annexed to the proposed IMAs be flexible and subject to revision. Ongoing strategic and tactical planning by the law enforcement professionals who will execute the Plan is essential. Based upon the forgoing, it is essential that the IMAs provide that the approved Plan be flexible. Toward this end, revisions to the proposed Plan will be approved and implemented by the Participating Municipalities through the Westchester County Chiefs of Police Association, which would be granted authority by their respective municipalities to amend the Plan as necessary during the term of the IMAs. The governing bodies of the Participating Municipalities would continue to retain budgetary authority over their respective police departments and thus, control the amount of resources that can be devoted to the Plan. However, these IMAs would grant authority to the Westchester County Chiefs of Police Association to determine the operational details of the Plan without need for legislative authorization each time an amendment to the Plan is required. In addition, should any additional municipalities located outside of Westchester County wish to be a part of the Plan, the Westchester County Chiefs of Police Association shall be further authorized to amend the Plan in order to add those new municipalities.

Your Committee has been informed that pursuant to New York General Municipal Law Section 209-m, the chief executive officer of a local government, whenever he or she deems that the public interest requires it, may request that the chief executive officer of any other local government detail, assign and make available for duty and use in the local government for which the request is made any part of the forces, equipment and supplies of the police department, police force or parkway police force of the local government of which the request is made. The chief executive officer of the local government of which the request is made is authorized and empowered to grant the request so made. Furthermore, a local government may, by local law, delegate to the chief of police of its police department or police force the aforementioned powers granted to a chief executive officer to request and grant police assistance. The proposed Local Law, if approved by your Honorable Board, will delegate to the Commissioner/Sheriff of the Department the powers granted to the County Executive as chief executive officer to request and grant police assistance under New York General Municipal Law Section 209-m.

Your Committee has been advised that the proposed IMAs do not meet the definition of an action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617. Therefore, no environmental review is required. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 14, 2025, which is on file with the Clerk of your Honorable Board.

It should be noted that approval of the Local Law authorizing the County to enter into the IMAs requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting strength of your Honorable Board.

Your Committee has carefully considered the proposed legislation and recommends your Honorable Board's favorable action on the annexed Local Law.

Dated: _____, 2025
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

C:jpi/6.9.25

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Mutual Aid and Rapid Response Plan

☒ NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

SECTION A - FUND

☐ GENERAL FUND

☐ AIRPORT FUND

☐ SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense \$ -

Total Current Year Revenue \$ -

Source of Funds (check one): ☐ Current Appropriations ☐ Transfer of Existing Appropriations

☐ Additional Appropriations ☐ Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: _____

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount _____

Describe: N/A

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: Annual Amount _____

Describe: N/A

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year: _____

Next Four Years: _____

Prepared by: Siva Gopalkrishna

Title: Director-Administrative Services

Department: Public Safety

Date: February 9, 2025

Reviewed By: [Signature]

Budget Director

Date: 6/17/25

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2025

RESOLVED, that a public hearing shall be held in accordance with requirements of law, in the Board of Legislators Chambers, Room 800, Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York 10601 on the ____ day of _____, 2025 at _____.m. upon a proposed Local Law entitled “A LOCAL LAW to authorize the County of Westchester to enter into Intermunicipal Agreements in order to establish a new Mutual Aid and Rapid Response Plan for the police departments of participating municipalities and to delegate to the Commissioner / Sheriff of the Department of Public Safety Services the powers granted to a chief executive officer to request and grant police assistance”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Legislators be and hereby is authorized and empowered to cause notice of such public hearing to be published in the official newspaper of the County at such times and in such manner as required by law.

Dated: _____, 2025
White Plains, New York