



Human Services, Human Rights & Equity

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft

Committee Chair: Catherine Parker

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Monday, May 15, 2023

1:00 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/> This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

With a quorum present, Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 1:13 PM

Others in Attendance:

BOL: Legislator Benjamin Boykin, Legislator James Nolan, Jill Axelrod, James Silverberg (Remote)

Present: Committee Chair Parker, Legislator Barr, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Maher

MINUTES APPROVAL

March 20th, 2023 2:30 PM Minutes

April 14th, 2023 10:00 AM Minutes

May 8th, 2023 1:00 PM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Williams Johnson, seconded by Legislator Pierce, the minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Parker, Legislator Barr, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Maher

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[RES-2023-65](#) **PH-County's Human Rights Law and Fair Housing Law**

Joint with Legislation and Housing committees.

Guests: Human Rights Commission: Tejash Sanchala, Executive Director, and Joshua Levin, Fair Housing Director; Law Dept.: Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz

Tejash Sanchala identified small changes made within the law that included changes to definitions of terms such as intern and employer and military status.

There were inclusions of language to be more in line with state law that includes pregnancy related conditions, liberal construction, exclusivity and reasonable accomodation language.

Legislator Imamura asked about the addition of weight as a protected class as was done in New York City.

Mr. Sanchala explained that weight isn't currently being included but could be looked at in the future.

Legislator Imamura also asked about the specific exemptions of County employees being protected by the County's HRC Law.

Mr. Sanchala explained this being not a new change and its an effort to avoid conflict. County employees can find remedy at the state level.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Pierce, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Parker, Legislator Barr, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Maher

[LL-2023-107](#) **LOCAL LAW-County's Human Rights Law and Fair Housing Law**

Joint with Legislation and Housing committees.

Guests: Human Rights Commission: Tejash Sanchala, Executive Director, and Joshua Levin, Fair Housing Director; Law Dept.: Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz

(See notes above)

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Pierce, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Parker, Legislator Barr, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Maher

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Pierce, the Committee adjourned at 1:22 PM by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Parker, Legislator Barr, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Maher

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