

RESOLUTION NO. ____ – 2024

RESOLVED, that this Board hold a public hearing pursuant to Section 209.141(4) of the Laws of Westchester County on Local Law Intro. No. ____ - 2024, entitled “A Local Law authorizing the continued use of extraordinary-circumstances videoconferencing for members of the County Board, its committees, and its subcommittees, and for members of public bodies of the County’s executive branch.” The public hearing will be held at ____m. on the ____ day of _____, 2024, in the Chambers of the Board of Legislators, 8th Floor, Michaelian Office Building, White Plains, New York. The Clerk of the Board shall cause notice of the time and date of such hearing to be published at least once in one or more newspapers published in the County of Westchester and selected by the Clerk of the Board for that purpose in the manner and time required by law.

TO: BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee recommends passage of “A Local Law authorizing the continued use of extraordinary circumstances videoconferencing for members of the County Board, its committees, and its subcommittees, and for members of public bodies of the County’s executive branch.”

Your Committee recalls that on June 29, 2022, Westchester County Local Law Nos. 11-2022 and 12-2022 were enacted, consistent with New York State Open Meetings Law (“OML”) Section 103-a and Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022, enabling public bodies to expand the use of videoconferencing to conduct open meetings, under extraordinary circumstances, regardless of a declaration of emergency.

Your Committee is aware that pursuant to Local Law Nos. 11-2022 and 12-2022, County public body members experiencing certain “extraordinary circumstances” have been allowed to participate in open meetings, through videoconferencing, from a remote location that is not open to the public, as long as a quorum of board members is present in the same physical location(s) where the public can attend.

Your Committee acknowledges that, consistent with Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022, Section 2 of Local Law No. 11-2022, and Section 2 of Local Law No. 12-2022, the use of extraordinary circumstances videoconferencing is set to expire on July 1, 2024, unless extended.

Your Committee has been advised that on April 20, 2024, Governor Kathy Hochul signed into Law Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2024, Part KK of which provides for a two-year extension

(without other modification) of the OML's extraordinary circumstances videoconferencing amendment, until July 1, 2026.

Your Committee believes that it is in the best interests of the County to pass a Local Law extending the use of extraordinary circumstances videoconferencing, consistent with OML § 103-a, Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2024, and the written procedures established by the County Board and the County Executive.

Finally, your Committee is informed that this Local Law does not meet the definition of an action under SEQRA and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 8, 2024, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators.

Your Committee recommends adoption of this Local Law.

Dated: July 10, 2024
White Plains, New York

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COMMITTEE ON

SCM 06-5-2024

Legislation

Information Technology
& Cybersecurity

Dated: July 10, 2024

White Plains, New York

The following members attended the meeting remotely and approved this item out of Committee with an affirmative vote. Their electronic signature was authorized and is below.

Emiliana May

Mitti

COMMITTEES ON

Legislation

Information Technology & Cybersecurity

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Video Conferencing (BOL)

☒ 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: _____

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: Annual Amount \$ -

Describe: _____

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

Current Year: _____

Next Four Years: _____

Prepared by: Mark Medwid

Title: Associate Budget Director

Department: Budget

Date: July 3, 2024

Reviewed By: Mark Medwid

Associate Budget Director

Date: July 5, 2024

LOCAL LAW INTRO. NO. - 2024

A LOCAL LAW authorizing the continued use of extraordinary circumstances videoconferencing for members of the County Board, its committees, and its subcommittees, and for members of public bodies of the County's executive branch.

BE IT ENACTED by the County Board of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. Section 2 of Local Law No. 11-2022 is hereby amended to read as follows:

This Local Law shall take effect immediately and shall expire ~~and be deemed repealed July 1, 2024, unless extended~~ on the same date that Section 103-a of the New York State Public Officers Law, or any successor New York State law authorizing such extraordinary-circumstances videoconferencing, expires.

Section 2. Section 2 of Local Law No. 12-2022 is hereby amended to read as follows:

This Local Law shall take effect immediately and shall expire ~~and be deemed repealed July 1, 2024, unless extended~~ on the same date that Section 103-a of the New York State Public Officers Law, or any successor New York State law authorizing such extraordinary-circumstances videoconferencing, expires.