

# Housing

## BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: Tyrae Woodson-Samuels

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

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**Monday, May 15, 2023**

**1:00 PM**

**Committee Room**

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### CALL TO ORDER

Joint with Legislation and Human Services, Human Rights & Equity committees.

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 Woodson-Samuels called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.*

*Others in Attendance: BOL: Legislators: James Nolan, Ben Boykin, Colin Smith, Vedat Gashi, and Erika Pierce; Committee Coordinators: Jill Axelrod and Shatika Parker; GUESTS: Law Dept.: Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz; Human Rights Commission: Tejash Sanchala and Josh Levin*

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

**Absent:** Legislator Johnson and Legislator Maher

### MINUTES APPROVAL

Monday, May 8th at 1:00 p.m.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Williams Johnson, seconded by Legislator Imamura, the minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

#### I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

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

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

A Public Hearing on "A LOCAL LAW amending Chapter 700 of the Laws of Westchester County to harmonize the County's Human Rights Law and Fair Housing Law with New York State and Federal law." [Public Hearing set for June 5, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.]. LOCAL LAW INTRO: 2023-107.

***SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON LEGISLATION, HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES, HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUITY***

*Mr. Sanchala discussed changes he had made to the law. He said that the state human rights law was amended to broaden the definition of a domestic employee, so we just tracked that definition for the County law. The word "intern" was moved from non-employee to employee.*

*Also, the military status definition did not include reserve, so that was changed.*

*He also added the language for harassment under the New York state standard to the County law.*

*He added the words "reasonable accommodation for pregnancy related conditions."*

*He noted that the liberal construction paragraph expressly provides that if there is any conflict between paragraphs in the law, the liberal construction should control.*

*He said that the fair housing law had to be amended because it provided that the matter shall be exclusive, but the federal fair housing law allows you to file a case in court and file a case with the County Human Rights Commission as well, so they removed the exclusivity provision.*

*Legislator Imamura noted that New York City recently added to their human rights law to include discrimination based on weight, and asked if we should we consider that here. Mr. Sanchala said that since that just happened on Thursday, and he hasn't had a chance to study the new law, it would be premature for him to comment. It would also need to be discussed by the County's Human Rights Legislation committee.*

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

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

A LOCAL LAW amending Chapter 700 of the Laws of Westchester County to harmonize the County's Human Rights Law and Fair Housing Law with New York State and Federal law.

***SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON LEGISLATION, HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES, HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUITY***

*See discussion of Item #1 above.*

On motion of Legislator Imamura, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Williams Johnson, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried unanimously.

## **II. OTHER BUSINESS**

## **III. RECEIVE & FILE**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Legislator Imamura, seconded by Legislator Barr, the Committee adjourned at 1:23 p.m.