

# Health

## BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: Jewel Williams-Johnson

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

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Monday, January 24, 2022

10:00 AM

Committee Room

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### CALL TO ORDER

*The County Board will meet pursuant to Chapter 417 of New York State Laws of 2021, allowing public bodies to meet and take action without permitting in-person public access to meetings and authorizes such meetings and public hearings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided the public has the ability to view or listen and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed. To access the meeting, please visit: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>*

*With a quorum present, Chair Williams Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM.*

**Present:** Committee Chair Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Legislator Gashi, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Shimsky and Legislator Smith

### MINUTES APPROVAL

#### I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Organizational meeting for the 2022-2023 Legislative Term:

- Set meeting quorum
- Set voting quorum
- Select Committee Vice Chair
- Set meeting day and time

*The committee members agreed on the following:*

*Setting a meeting quorum of 2 committee members*

*Setting a voting quorum of 4 committee members*

*Agreed on Legislator Erika Pierce as committee Vice Chair*

*Agreed to meet on Tuesdays at 1:00pm*

On motion of Legislator Gashi, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was approved.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Committee Chair Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Legislator Gashi, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Shimsky and Legislator Smith

#### 1. [ACT-2022-3](#) **ACT - Opioid (Allergan) Settlement**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to settle the claims against Allergan and its subsidiaries in an adversary proceeding filed in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Westchester County, titled The County of Westchester v. Purdue Pharma, et al, Index No. 51606/2018, and then transferred to the coordinated proceeding before Judge Garguilo in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Suffolk County (the "Instant Proceeding").

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**Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, LAW & MAJOR CONTRACTS AND HEALTH**

Joint with the Committees on Budget and Appropriations and Law and Major Contracts  
Guests: County Attorney John Nonna and Senior Assistant County Attorney Loren Zeitler-LAW

*Mr. Nonna advised that they have a deadline of February 4th to decide if the County is going to participate in the settlement to get a share of the proceeds. He noted that this is the third settlement before the Board, the other two were for New York cases against Johnson & Johnson and the three major distributors of opioids. Ms. Zeitler advised that the matter was settled on December 9th, 2021, right before closing arguments. Allergan agreed to pay \$200 million. The County will receive \$1.841 million in mid-2022 as a one-time payment. Legislator Maher asked if there is any significant difference between this settlement and the two previously approved other than the length of time for the payout. Ms. Zeitler said in this case, the counties are getting a larger percentage of the settlements. Legislator Maher asked if the injunctive relief prevents marketing efforts, including incentives to sales force. Ms. Zeitler said it does for the next 10 years.*

*Legislator Maher asked if the same three parties (Nassau, Suffolk and New York State) negotiated this settlement as well as the previous settlement. Ms. Zeitler said yes, that Nassau and Suffolk counties who were the bellweather plaintiffs, so they get money separate from this. He asked if attorneys' fees are a separate item, and Ms. Zeitler said that comes from a separate fund.*

*Legislator Maher asked what the resolutions are against other defendants. Ms. Zeitler said Teva, the last defendant in the New York case, was found liable last month and a damages trial will be proceeding. They have appealed the liability issue. Mr. Nonna said the Purdue settlement is also pending appeal.*

*Legislator Shimsky asked if there is any foreseeable risk that any of this could be complicated by bankruptcy proceedings. Mr. Nonna said no because if the companies settling were at risk of going into bankruptcy, they would have declared bankruptcy to avoid these payments.*

*Legislator Shimsky asked if the public nuisance theory of liability was used here. Mr. Nonna said it was, and that is why Teva was found liable. Legislator Shimsky noted that some states have found that public nuisance theory is not applicable, and asked if accepting the settlement shields us from the uncertainties about the future. Mr. Nonna said yes, and noted that it is a state law issue, so what happens in New York might not necessarily apply to what happens in another state.*

On motion of Legislator Pierce, seconded by Legislator Shimsky, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Committee Chair Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Legislator Gashi, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Shimsky and Legislator Smith

## **II. OTHER BUSINESS**

## **III. RECEIVE & FILE**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Legislator Gashi, seconded by Legislator Pierce, the Committee adjourned at 10:51am.