

James Nolan

Minority Whip, Legislator, 15th District
Chair, Committee on Veterans, Seniors & Youth



Committee Assignments:
Labor & Human Rights
Legislation
Parks & Environment

To: Vedat Gashi, Chairman of the Board of Legislators
Sunday Vanderberg, Clerk of the Board of Legislators
Colin Smith, Chair of the Legislation Committee

From: James Nolan, Legislator, District 15

Date: November 13, 2024

Re: Mask Transparency Act

Attached is correspondence from the Westchester County Police Association Inc. President Erik Grutzner and Affiliated Police Association of Westchester President Keith Olson in support of the "Mask Transparency Act".

Please refer to the Legislation Committee



Affiliated Police Associations of Westchester

PO Box 155, Elmsford, NY 10523

Keith Olson, Yonkers PBA	President
Michael Hagan, West, County PBA	1st Vice President
Edward Hayes, New Rochelle SOA.	2nd Vice President
Bruce Donnelly, West, County Corrections SOA.	Treasurer



October 22, 2024

Dear Westchester County Legislature,

I write this letter on behalf of the Affiliated Police Associations of Westchester (APA), our forty police associations and our roughly 4,000 members of law enforcement in Westchester County. After careful consideration, the APA is offering our support for the proposed "Mask Transparency Act." We feel that this common-sense law will potentially provide more safety to the public and to our dedicated law enforcement officers.

Once again, on behalf of the APA, I thank you all for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Keith Olson
President
Affiliated Police Associations of Westchester

Westchester County Police Chiefs Association Inc.

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1st Vice President, Chief John Barbelet, Tarrytown
2nd Vice President, Comm. Michael Kopy, Rye
Immediate Past Pres., Chief Robert Noble, Yorktown
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October 24, 2024

Honorable James Nolan, Legislator
District 15 - Westchester County Board of Legislators

Via e-mail

Dear Legislator Nolan,

Please accept this letter of support from the Westchester County Chiefs of Police Association for the proposed Mask Transparency Act you are sponsoring for Westchester County. As those responsible for responding to and investigating crimes in the county, our association fully supports banning the wearing of a facial covering to intimidate others, or to conceal a person's identity from law enforcement.

In addition, we applaud the legislation's recognition that masks worn for health and safety, religious, observance, or other legitimate means, be exempt from prohibition.

It is interesting to note that laws similar to the Mask Transparency Act were common prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we have moved beyond mandated wearing of masks in public to prevent the spread of disease, the wearing of a mask is more often used to instill fear in others or conceal one's identity. As concerns regarding the targeting of religious and ethnic minorities continues to rise, this legislation provides law enforcement every opportunity to identify and prosecute perpetrators of hate crimes, and protect victims from harassment.

We thank you for your continued support of law enforcement in Westchester County.

Erik Grutzner, President

230 Barger St., Putnam Valley, New York, 10579