

Legislation Meeting Agenda



Committee Chair: Colin Smith

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

Monday, January 27, 2025

2:00 PM

Committee Room

Joint with PE and VSY

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.

Legislator Emiljana Ulaj will be participating remotely from 520 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591.

Legislator Colin Smith will be participating remotely from 1132 Main Street, Suite 1, Peekskill, NY 10566.

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[2025-40](#) LEGISLATORS PIERCE, NOLAN AND TUBIOLO: ACT - WC PARKS
PASSES FREE FOR VETERANS

AN ACT providing Westchester County Parks Passes for Veterans free of charge.

Guests:

Peter Tartaglia, First Deputy Commissioner - Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation

Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Chief Deputy County Attorney - Westchester County Attorney's Office

Shawna MacLeod, Senior Assistant County Attorney-Westchester County Attorney's Office

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee recommends adoption of “An Act Providing Westchester County Parks Passes for Veterans Free of Charge.”

Your Committee is aware that veterans have made immense contributions to our nation, often at great personal cost, and should be recognized and honored for their dedication. By providing free Park Passes to Westchester County veterans, the financial barrier to accessing County Parks and the many programs they offer is lessened, and the County is given the opportunity to demonstrate its gratitude and commitment to their well-being.

Your Committee is informed that access to outdoor recreation can significantly improve mental health, reduce stress, and enhance physical fitness. This Act will allow U.S. veterans living in Westchester County to experience the numerous health and wellness benefits that come from spending time in nature. This Act may also aid veterans in their transition back to civilian life and help them engage with the broader community.

Your Committee is further informed that many veterans face financial hardships, and alleviating the cost of a County Park Pass may help ease their burden. Currently, the County provides free Park Passes to veterans with service-connected disabilities; this Act would extend that benefit to all U.S. veterans living in the County. In addition to requiring proof of residency—which is required for any County resident applying for a Park Pass—this Act requires veterans to provide documentation of their veteran status to receive a fee Park Pass. Ultimately, offering free Westchester County Parks Passes and all the benefits they provide to veterans is a small but important way to give

back to those who have given so much for our country. It is an investment in their well-being and a reminder that their service is deeply valued and appreciated.

Your Committee is informed that the proposed project does not meet the definition of an action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning, dated January 14, 2025, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators. Your Committee concurs in this conclusion.

Based on the foregoing, your Committee recommends the passage of this Act.

Dated: _____, 2025
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

An Act Providing
Westchester County Parks
Passes for Veterans Free of
Charge.

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

Section 1. U.S. veterans living in Westchester County shall be entitled to receive a Westchester County Park Pass free of charge. The Park Pass shall be valid for three years from the date of issue.

Section 2. To receive a free Park Pass from a Park Pass office location, a U.S. veteran must present:

- A. One of the following forms of proof of County residency: a New York State driver's license; or valid photo identification along with a document showing residency such as a lease, deed, or utility bill; and
- B. One of the following forms of identification: a Department of Veterans Affairs-issued Veteran Identification Card (VIC); a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC); a Department of Defense Identification Card (DD Form 2, DD Form 2765, or Next Generation Uniform Services ID replacement); a New York State driver's license or identification card with a Veteran designation; or other valid form of proof of U.S. veteran status.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect immediately.