

Social Services

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: Christopher Johnson

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

Monday, July 12, 2021

1:00 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with the Committee on Legislation

Legislator Catherine Borgia will be participating remotely from Clear View School and Day Treatment Center, 480 Boston Post Road, Briarcliff, NY 10510.

With a quorum present, Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

Others in Attendance: BOL: Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Terry Clements, Jose Alvarado, Ruth Walter, Colin Smith, Damon Maher; Staff: Anand Singh, Jill Axelrod, Lisa Hochman, Amy Vele. Law Department, John Nonna, Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Jason Whitehead, and Shawna MacLeod; Human Rights Commission: Tejash Sanchala, Valerie Daniele; Guests: William Schrag, Karen Rosenfeld, and Pam Goldstein; Remote: Hanade Sarar, Rachel Simon, Joshua Levin and Sammi Shah

MINUTES APPROVAL

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 10:00am

On motion of Legislator Shimsky, seconded by Legislator Tubiolo, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Monday, June 28, 2021 at 3:00pm

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Covill, seconded by Legislator Tubiolo, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Guests: Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Senior Assistant County Attorney Jason Whitehead; Human Rights Commission Executive Director Tejash Sanchala and Deputy Director Valerie Daniele; William Schrag, President, Westchester Jewish Council; Christopher Oldi, Chair, LGBTQ Advisory Board; and Hanade Sarar, Arab-American Advisory Board member.

1. [RES-2021-130](#) **PH-Discriminatory Harassment Law**

A Public Hearing on "A LOCAL LAW amending Chapter 700 of the Laws of Westchester County relating to Discriminatory Harassment." [Public Hearing set for September 20, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.]. LOCAL LAW INTRO: 2021-373.

Submitted by COMMITTEES ON LEGISLATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Legislator Covill asked about the high penalty of up to \$250,000, to which Mr. Sanchala stated it was in line with New York City's legislation and that it was fact specific. Legislator Smith asked about workplace incidents where an employer/employee could be held liable and Ms. Daniele stated that these cases are already covered by the public accommodations law and other instances were already covered by the human rights law, clarifying that incidents covered by the Human Rights law had to be tied to a nexus and cited an example. Legislator Shimsky asked for a copy of the law. Legislator Barr asked how this law is different than calling the police, to which Mr. Sanchala stated that this isn't a replacement for people calling the police but provides another avenue for them to seek justice and gave an example of how it would achieve that. A discussion ensued on hypothetical situations where the law would or would not apply. Legislator Covill opened the floor and Ms. Sarar said the Arab American Advisory Board was supportive of the legislation but would like to see more information about what the next step would be for people after reporting something. Ms. Simon said that the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board supports the legislation, but asked why gender identity/expression wasn't specifically listed to which, Ms. Daniele said these protections are covered by the Human Rights Law. Mr. Schrag said the Westchester Jewish Council supports the legislation, and after speaking with other attorneys they are comfortable it doesn't violate First Amendment Rights. Legislator Barr asked what's being done to publicize this law and Mr. Sanchala said that they are putting out fact sheets, and meeting with communities to speak about the law as part of their broader outreach efforts. Legislator Smith asked if the Human Right's Commission had enough staffing to deal with the complaints that would come from this law's passage and Mr. Sanchala confirmed they did. Legislator Covill spoke about what would happen after the law was signed out of committee concerning the public hearing and effective date of the law, to which Mr. Boykin clarified that the public hearing will be held in September due to the early start time of the August meeting.

On motion of Legislator Tubiolo, seconded by Legislator Boykin, the above item was signed by committee to the Board of Legislators committee, due back by 7/12/2021.

2. [LL-2021-9](#) **LOCAL LAW-Discriminatory Harassment Law**

A LOCAL LAW amending Chapter 700 to the Laws of Westchester County relating to Discriminatory Harassment.

Submitted by COMMITTEES ON LEGISLATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

See discussion of Item #1 above.

This LOCAL LAW - Amendment to Local Law was assigned by committee to the Board of Legislators due back on 7/12/2021

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Committee Vice-Chair Covill, seconded by Legislator Tubiolo, the Committee adjourned at 1:43 PM.