

Appointments

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: James Nolan

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

Monday, May 22, 2023

1:00 PM

Committee Room

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.

Joint with the Committee on Legislation

With a quorum present, Chair Nolan called the meeting to order at 1:13PM.

Others in Attendance:

HEALTH: Dr. Sherlita Amler, Renee Recchia (remote) and Dr. Dial Hewlett; LAW: Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz; BOL: Legislator Catherine Parker, Legislator David Imamura, Legislator Damon Maher, Legislator Margaret Cunzio, Legislator David Tubiolo, James Silverberg, Karen Vele, Dan Vera, John Crobs, Emma Friedman and Dayana Gómez-Holguín

Present: Committee Chair Nolan, Legislator Gashi and Legislator Pierce

Absent: Legislator Clements and Committee Vice-Chair Johnson

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Guests:

Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Chief Deputy County Attorney
Law Department

Dr. Sherlita Amler, Commissioner
Department of Health

1. [2023-187](#) **PH-Establishing a Subcommittee of the African American Advisory Board**

A RESOLUTION to set a Public Hearing on "A LOCAL LAW amending Section 277.421 of the Laws of Westchester County to add a provision to establish a Subcommittee of the Westchester County African-American Advisory Board to study the high rates of asthma in communities of color in the County of Westchester." [Public Hearing set for _____, 2023 at _____.m.]. LL Intro: 2023-188.

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: COMMITTEES ON LEGISLATION AND APPOINTMENTS

Chair Nolan and Legislator Barr invited the guests to introduce themselves and begin the discussion on this item. Ms. Dolgin-Kmetz explained that this is a five (5) member sub-committee appointed by the County Executive and with the Commissioners of the Departments of Health, Social Services and Planning (or their designees) as ex-officio members. Their task is to assess the asthma risks for minority residents in the county that lead to identify barriers for quality asthma treatments, developing intervention strategies and launching a countywide asthma awareness campaign to educate County residents on how to manage this disease better. The sub-committee will then deliver an annual report with trends and data to the County Executive and the Board of Legislators as of September 1, 2025.

Dr. Amler and Deputy Commissioner Recchia explained that there are two sources of data that they receive to assess asthma, one via a telephone survey and the other is based on emergency room visits that looks at adults and children. When narrowing down by zip codes for people between the ages of 0 to 18, from 2018 to 2020 Westchester County's rate was at 65.4 and New York State's rate was 48.5 (excluding New York City). From surveys and studies like these, it was determined that minorities were predominately asthmatic. As a way to help circumvent this issue the Department of Health determined that they would find it beneficial to have a sub-committee for the African American Advisory Board. Dr. Amler explained that asthma can derive from several sources, such as air quality, as it is a multi-factorial condition that manifested from an array of ways. The Westchester County zip codes with the highest rates of asthma diagnoses included 10701, 10703 and 10705.

Some of the committee members expressed that the Board of Legislators should have input in appointing the members of this subcommittee. Ms. Dolgin-Kmetz added that although the Board does not appoint the sub-committee members, the Board does have a say in whose appointment gets confirmed for the African American Advisory Board in general. Other suggestions made by the committee members included ensuring that there is a pulmonologist on the subcommittee, updating the committee report's first line and requiring geographical representation for environmental justice communities. Additionally, the committee members requested the asthma rates regarding fuel consumption in the last few years and the report for the survey mentioned.

Chair Nolan and Legislator Barr thanked the guests and proceeded to conclude the meeting. This RESOLUTION - Public Hearing was continued

2. [2023-188](#) **LOCAL LAW-Establishing a Subcommittee of the African American Advisory Board**

A LOCAL LAW amending Section 277.421 of the Laws of Westchester County to add a provision to establish a Subcommittee of the Westchester County African-American Advisory Board to study the high rates of asthma in communities of color in the County of Westchester. **COMMITTEE REFERRAL: COMMITTEES ON LEGISLATION AND APPOINTMENTS**

Please refer to previous item for reference.

This LOCAL LAW - Amendment to Local Law was continued

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Gashi, seconded by Legislator Barr, the Committee adjourned at 2:04pm.