

Kitley S. Covill
Legislator, 2nd District
Chair, Legislation



Committee Assignments:
Environment & Health
Intergovernmental Services
Law & Major Contracts
Public Safety
Public Works & Transportation
Social Services

To: Ben Boykin, Chairman of the Board of Legislators
Sunday Vanderberg, Clerk of the Board of Legislators

From: Kitley Covill, Legislator, 2nd District
Catherine Borgia, 9th District

Date: September 8, 2021

Re: Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters & Ambulance Service Members

Please refer the attached legislation, amending Chapter 475 of the Laws of Westchester County by removing the expiration date of tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service members and making the exemption permanent, to the appropriate committees on the September 20, 2021 Westchester County Board of Legislators agenda.

This local law was enacted in 2008, and currently has a sunset to expire on December 31, 2021. This is a much needed and well deserved tax exemption for those who risk their lives voluntarily to save others.

TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

The Committee is in receipt of “A LOCAL LAW of the Westchester County Board of Legislators amending Chapter 475 of the Laws of Westchester County by removing the expiration date of tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service members.”

In 2008, by Local Law 16-2008, your Honorable Board enacted Chapter 475 of the Laws of Westchester County, which provides volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service members, who are qualified real property owners, with the tax exemption authorized by Section 466-d of the Real Property Tax Law and to continue this exemption in the case of certain un-remarried spouses of deceased volunteers pursuant to the provisions of Sections 466-f and 466-h of the New York State Real Property Tax Law (“Real Property Tax Law”). The exemptions authorized by this Chapter are subject to all of the qualifications and limitations set forth in Sections 466-d, 466-f and 466-h of the Real Property Tax Law.

Local Law 16-2008, by its own terms, expired on December 31, 2019. However, Section 466-d of the Real Property Tax Law, authorizes the County to provide this exemption as long as the County’s population is between 900,000 to 950,000, as of the last federal decennial census. Given that the County’s population as of the 2010 census was 949,113, the County remained able to provide this exemption, until the County’s population was to be determined in the 2020 census. Thus, by Local Law 3-2020, your Honorable Board extended the exemption through the end of 2021.

As part of the April 2021 State Budget, New York State amended the Real Property Tax Law to provide that, where an exemption statute makes an option available to a municipality based upon a

RESOLUTION NO. - 2021

RESOLVED, that this Board hold a public hearing pursuant to Section 209.141(4) of the Laws of Westchester County on Local Law Intro No. - 2021 entitled A LOCAL LAW of the Westchester County Board of Legislators amending Chapter 475 of the Laws of Westchester County by removing the expiration date of tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service members.” The public hearing will be held at __ .m. on the day of _____, 2021 in the Chambers of the Board of Legislators, 8th Floor, Michaelian Office Building, White Plains, N.Y. The Clerk of the Board shall cause notice of the time and date of such hearing to be published at least once in one or more newspapers published in the County of Westchester and selected by the Clerk of the Board for that purpose in the manner and time required by law.