

Health

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: Jewel Williams Johnson

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

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

2:30 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with Parks & Recreation and Public Works & Transportation Committees

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. *With a quorum present, Chair Williams Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:47PM.*

Others in Attendance: GUESTS: Peter McCartt, Rob Hilbrandt; COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE: Ellen Hendrickx; PARKS: Peter Tartaglia; DOH: Chris Ericson; LAW: Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz and Shawna McLeod; BOL: Legislator Symra Brandon (remote), Legislator Tyrae Woodson Samuels, Legislator James Nolan, Marcello Figueroa, Lisa Hochman (remote), Shatika Parker, Jill Axelrod, Elizabeth LoBello and Dayana Gómez-Holguín

Present: Committee Chair Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Parker and Committee Vice-Chair Pierce

Absent: Legislator Smith

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [ACT-2023-185](#) **ACT-Lead-Free Parks Act**

AN ACT establishing enhanced testing for lead in potable water systems at Westchester County Parks.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON HEALTH, PARKS & RECREATION AND PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION

Guests: Law Dept.: Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz and Senior Assistant County Attorney Shawna MacLeod; Dept. of Health: Chris Ericson, Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Health; Dept. of Parks: First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia; Dept. of Labs & Research: Rob Hilbrandt, Division Head, Environmental Chemistry Laboratory; County Executive's Office: Peter McCartt, Director of Energy Conservation & Sustainability

Ms. MacLeod discussed that the Act would establish a process for monitoring and remediating drinking-water quality in the County's public parks, to ensure that drinking water remains

potable. The monitoring and testing- and, if levels actionable are found, the warning, remediation, and abatement- will be carried out by the County Department of Health, in conjunction with the County Department of Labs and Research and the County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation as appropriate. Importantly, while State requirements for potable water mandate that lead concentration not exceed 0.015 milligrams per liter of water, given children's particular sensitivity to any amount of lead exposure, this ACT establishes an even lower threshold for lead concentration: if the concentration of lead is greater than 0.005 milligrams per liter, then the water will need to be treated to bring the lead concentration down.

Chair Williams Johnson asked why there is a three-year time line to get this up and running. Mr. Tartaglia said he thinks it could be done in one year.

The amendment was motioned by Legislator Barr seconded by Legislator Pierce, the committee approved the change of the language in Section 6 of the legislation from "completing the first round of testing in County Parks over a period of up to three years to the effective date of this act" to "up to one year."

Legislator Barr suggested posting signs in the bathrooms indicating that the water there has not been tested for drinking. Mr. Tartaglia said he would look into that. Mr. Ericson noted that the water in the bathroom sinks does meet state standards for potable water, but has not been tested for the extra thing we are putting in with this law. Legislator Pierce suggested posting signs at drinking stations stating that "for added protection, this water has been tested for lead." Mr. Tartaglia said the Parks Department will work with the Health Department on the appropriate language.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Parker and Committee Vice-Chair Pierce

Absent: Legislator Smith

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Imamura, the Committee adjourned at 4:11pm.