

TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee recommends adoption of “A LOCAL LAW amending Chapter 529 of the Laws of Westchester County to add a requirement to post a graphic image of the dangers of weapons or firearms.”

Your Committee is advised that that according to Everytown for Gun Safety, one of the largest gun violence prevention organizations in America, access to firearms significantly increases the risk of death by suicide, domestic dispute, homicide, and unintentional gunshot. Gun owners and those contemplating buying guns should know about the risks associated with guns. Accordingly, as a means of promoting safety, in June of 2022, this Honorable Board enacted Local Law No 8 of 2022, which added Chapter 529 to the Laws of Westchester County. Chapter 529 requires every person, firm or corporation located in the County and engaged in the retail business of selling weapons to post notices in two locations where weapons or firearms are displayed or delivered to the purchaser warning of the dangers of having firearms in the home, and requires the County Clerk to also provide a copy of the notice upon the issuance of a pistol license. The sign also includes the telephone numbers for the County Crisis Prevention and Response Team and the National Suicide Hotline. Requiring gun dealers to inform purchasers of the risks associated with firearms promotes safety, enables buyers to make educated decisions about owning and storing guns and is a meaningful step towards preventing gun violence.

Your Committee is further advised that this proposed legislation builds upon the County’s existing requirement for firearm safety warning signs by mandating that a graphic firearm safety warning sign also be placed adjacent to, and given with, such written warning sign. Specifically,

Chapter 529 of the Laws of Westchester will be amended to require every person, firm or corporation located in the County of Westchester and engaged in the retail business of selling weapons, in addition to posting a notice in the place where such weapons or firearms are displayed or delivered to the purchaser at the entrance to the site and in at least one additional area where sales occur conspicuously warning of the dangers of firearms, to also post a graphic image. Such graphic image shall be developed and/or approved by the County Department of Health and shall be placed adjacent to the written sign warning of the dangers of firearms. Upon the issuance of a firearm license, the County Clerk will also be required to provide the licensee a copy of the graphic warning sign in addition to a copy of the written notice indicating the risks of the presence of a weapon or firearm in the home.

Your Committee is informed that Everytown for Gun Safety indicates that research related to tobacco control has demonstrated that pairing visual warnings with text advising of the dangers of tobacco use, significantly increases effectiveness by encouraging behavioral reflection and reducing risky behaviors. These graphic signs use imagery to convey risks (suicide, domestic violence, accidental death) more effectively than text alone. Visual warnings reach individuals who may be illiterate or have limited proficiency with the English language. This proposed Local Law will strengthen the effectiveness of existing gun safety warnings by ensuring that they are understandable and impactful across language and literacy barriers. Gun violence is a public health epidemic. This proposal provides a cost-effective way to encourage safer decision-making by firearm purchasers and to raise awareness about the dangers of unsafe storage and misuse—particularly risks involving children, individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts or other mental health struggles, domestic violence, or substance impairment.

As you know, this Honorable Board must comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”). The proposed act does not meet the definition of an

action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 9, 2026, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators.

Your Committee, after careful consideration, recommends adoption of this Local Law.

Dated: _____, 2026
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

RESOLUTION NO. ____ – 2026

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. ____ - 2026, entitled, “A LOCAL LAW amending Chapter 529 of the Laws of Westchester County to add a requirement to post a graphic image of the dangers of weapons or firearms.” The public hearing will be held at __.m. on the ____ day of _____, 2026 in the Chambers of the Board of Legislators, 8th Floor, Michaelian Office Building, White Plains, New York. 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.