



Legislation

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft

Committee Chair: Kitley Covill

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

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with Social Services committee

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

With a quorum present, Chair Covill called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

Others in attendance: BOL: Legislators: Chris Johnson and Terry Clements, Melanie Montalto (Remote), Committee Coordinators Jill Axelrod and Dayana Gomez LAW: Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz and Jason Whitehead GUESTS: David Imamura, Marjorie Hsu (Remote)

Present: Committee Chair Covill, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Shimsky and Legislator Smith

Absent: Committee Vice-Chair Borgia, Legislator Gashi and Legislator Williams

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Guests: County Attorney John Nona, Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Senior Assistant County Attorney Jason Whitehead, and Marjorie Hsu and David Imamura, Co-Chairs of the Asian-American Advisory Board.

1. [2021-372](#) **PH-Discriminatory Harassment Law**

Ms. Dolgin-Kmetz said that this law amends the current Human Rights Law to make it unlawful to engage in discriminatory harassment. Legislator Covill asked why victims of domestic violence were included as a protected class. Ms. Dolgin-Kmetz said they used the New York City Human Rights Law as a model. Chairman Boykin asked if this language is in the New York City Law, and Mr. Whitehead said it was. Legislators Covill and Smith asked for more explanation, and questioned whether there was something in the New York City bill to clarify why that particular group was included. Ms. Dolgin-Kmetz said this would be a question for Tejash Sanchala, Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission. Legislator Covill asked Mr. Whitehead to provide a copy of New York City law and any legislative memos for that law.

Ms. Dolgin-Kmetz noted that they also amended the current law to add a penalty that if a respondent has been found to have committed an act of harassment, he or she must undertake remedial action, including training or community service, as well as pay financial penalties to the County and the victim.

Legislator Smith questioned whether the law should also specifically address harassment that takes place in a commercial setting outside of the employer/employee relationship.

Legislator Covill noted that Section 8 of the law reads "requiring the respondent to report of the manner of compliance", and should be changed to remove the word "of" after "report."

Ms. Dolgin-Kmetz noted that the law also eliminated the \$10,000 limit for punitive damages.

The committees agreed to meet again on July 12th at 1:00 p.m. so that Mr. Sanchala could answer questions.

This RESOLUTION - Public Hearing was tabled

2. [2021-373](#) **LOCAL LAW-Discriminatory Harassment Law**

See discussion of Item #1 above.

This LOCAL LAW - Amendment to Local Law was tabled

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Shimsky, seconded by Legislator Smith, the Committee adjourned at 10:54 a.m.