



Legislation

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft

Committee Chair: Colin Smith

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

Monday, May 15, 2023

1:00 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with Human Services, Human Rights & Equity, Housing, and Budget & Appropriations 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 Smith called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.*

Others in Attendance: BOL: Legislators: Erika Pierce, David Tubiolo, Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, and Jewel Williams Johnson; Committee Coordinators: Jill Axelrod and Shatika Parker; GUESTS: Law Dept.: Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz; Human Rights Commission: Tejash Sanchala and Josh Levin; Dept. of Finance (Remote): Karin Hablow, Cesar Vargas, and Angela Owens; Budget Dept.: Larry Soule; Dept. of Corrections: Joseph Spano (Remote); County Executive's Office: Copernicus Crane

Present: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Imamura and Legislator Nolan

Absent: Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Maher

Remote: Legislator Johnson

MINUTES APPROVAL

Monday, May 8th at 1:00 p.m.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, seconded by Legislator Nolan, the minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Nolan

Absent: Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Maher

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [2023-106](#) PH-County's Human Rights Law and Fair Housing Law

Joint with Human Services, Human Rights & Equity and Housing committees.

Guests: Human Rights Commission: Tejash Sanchala, Executive Director, and Joshua Levin, Fair Housing Director; Law Dept.: Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz

Mr. Sanchala discussed changes he had made to the law. He said that the state human rights law was amended to broaden the definition of a domestic employee, so we just tracked that definition for the County law. The word "intern" was moved from non-employee to employee. Also, the military status definition did not include reserve, so that was changed.

He also added the language for harassment under the New York state standard to the County law.

He added the words "reasonable accommodation for pregnancy related conditions."

He noted that the liberal construction paragraph expressly provides that if there is any conflict between paragraphs in the law, the liberal construction should control.

He said that the fair housing law had to be amended because it provided that the matter shall be exclusive, but the federal fair housing law allows you to file a case in court and file a case with the County Human Rights Commission as well, so they removed the exclusivity provision.

Legislator Imamura noted that New York City recently added to their human rights law to include discrimination based on weight, and asked if we should we consider that here. Mr. Sanchala said that since that just happened on Thursday, and he hasn't had a chance to study the new law, it would be premature for him to comment. It would also need to be discussed by the County's Human Rights Legislation committee.

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

Aye: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Nolan

Absent: Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Maher

2. [2023-107](#) **LOCAL LAW-County's Human Rights Law and Fair Housing Law**

Joint with Human Services, Human Rights & Equity and Housing committees.

Guests: Human Rights Commission: Tejash Sanchala, Executive Director, and Joshua Levin, Fair Housing Director; Law Dept.: Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz

See discussion of Item #1 above

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

Aye: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Nolan

Absent: Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Maher

3. [2023-214](#) **HOME RULE-A6438/S1992**

Joint with Budget & Appropriations committee

Guest: Dept. of Corrections: Commissioner Joseph Spano
Commissioner Spano discussed the item.

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

Aye: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Nolan

Absent: Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Maher

4. [2023-215](#) **HOME RULE-S6823A/A6246A**

Joint with Budget & Appropriations committee

Guest: Dept. of Finance: Commissioner Karin Hablow
Budget Director Larry Soule discussed the item.

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

Aye: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Cunzio, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Imamura and Legislator Nolan

Absent: Legislator Maher

Remote: Legislator Johnson

5. [2023-208](#) **HOME RULE-S4879/A5092**

Guest: CE's Office: Copernicus Crane, Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations

Mr. Crane discussed the item.

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

Aye: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Nolan

Absent: Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Maher

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, seconded by Legislator Nolan, the Committee adjourned at 1:59 p.m. by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Cunzio, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Imamura and Legislator Nolan

Absent: Legislator Maher

Remote: Legislator Johnson

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