

Economic Development

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: Ben Boykin

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

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

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.

Legislator Emijana Ulaj will be participating remotely from 520 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591.

With a quorum present, Chair Boykin called the meeting to order at 10:10AM.

Others in Attendance: CONSUMER PROTECTION: James Maisano; BOL: Legislator Nancy Barr, Legislator Shanae Williams (remote) and Dayana Gómez-Holguín

Present: Legislator Boykin, Legislator Holstein, Legislator Ulaj and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Remote: Legislator Parker

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 10:00am

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Holstein, the above item was approved. The motion carried.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Overview and initiatives from the Department of Consumer Protection

Guest: Consumer Protection: James Maisano, Director

The Department of Consumer Affairs has improved functions and created new initiatives, including website improvements, elevated social media presence and a helpful staff of 23 members for any inquiries made. This department pays for itself, making it a benefit to the County's overall budget. Consumer Protection is made up of State Law and the Consumer Protection Code and as such, they are able to fulfill inspections to ensure that businesses are compliant. The department checks every gas station, deli and other entities providing services to the public, to ensure that they are working up to proper standards. In scenarios where the inspections go from civil to criminal, they work in partnership with law enforcement. The inspectors, or peace officers, go unannounced to these locations and as such, can provide

tickets for any violations. In gas stations, they check the quality of the products sold as well as the checking for scammer devices that steal people's credit card information. Part of their works also includes attending settlement conferences, most of which end up with successful outcomes. The department licenses about 10,000 contractors, which include a detailed background check and allows the department to supervise them as well. Additionally, the website is user friendly, the department is active on social media and the staff are open and willing to answer any questions to those who inquire. Credit card surcharges are now able to be enforced by Counties, which was changed Statewide stemming from a complaint made by their department specifically. The department is tackling this complaint-based and encourage the public to file complaints online for further inspection. All of the tickets by the department are up to \$1,000 but the Governor recently passed the tickets for up to \$500.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Holstein, the Committee adjourned at 10:57am.