



# Housing

## BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft

Committee Chair: Tyrae Woodson-Samuels

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

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Monday, April 17, 2023

1:00 PM

Committee Room

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### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting jointly with the Committee on Legislation

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.

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

*With a quorum present, Chair Woodson-Samuels called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.*

**Present:** Committee Chair Woodson-Samuels, Legislator Barr, Legislator Maher and  
Committee Vice-Chair Williams Johnson

**Absent:** Legislator Imamura and Legislator Parker

**Remote:** Legislator Borgia and Legislator Johnson

### MINUTES APPROVAL

#### I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [RES-2023-53](#) PH-Office of Housing Counsel

A RESOLUTION to set a Public Hearing on "A LOCAL LAW amending the Laws of Westchester County by adding a new Chapter 187 relating to the creation of the Office of Housing Counsel." [Public Hearing set for May 1, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.]. LOCAL LAW INTRO: 2022-262.

**SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON LEGISLATION AND HOUSING**

Joint with LEG.

Guests: Law Dept.: County Attorney John Nonna and Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, DSS: Deputy Commissioner John Befus; Planning Dept: Deputy Commissioner Blanca Lopez; Budget Dept.: Budget Director Larry Soule

*Mr. Nonna and Ms. Dolgin-Kmetz discussed the changes to the legislation. First Deputy Commissioner Befus discussed how this will help prevent homelessness. Mr. Soule discussed potential savings to the County. The legislators discussed the fact that tenants are currently at a disadvantage in court because landlords usually have attorneys present and tenants rarely*

do.

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

**Aye:** Committee Chair Woodson-Samuels, Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Maher and Committee Vice-Chair Williams Johnson

**Absent:** Legislator Imamura and Legislator Parker

2. [2022-262](#) **LOCAL LAW-Office of Housing Counsel**

A "LOCAL LAW amending the Laws of Westchester County by adding a new Chapter 187 relating to the creation of the Office of Housing Counsel."

**COMMITTEE REFERRAL: COMMITTEES ON LEGISLATION AND HOUSING**

Joint with LEG.

Guests: Law Dept.: County Attorney John Nonna and Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, DSS: Deputy Commissioner John Befus; Planning Dept: Deputy Commissioner Blanca Lopez; Budget Dept.: Budget Director Larry Soule  
*Please refer to item #1.*

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

**Aye:** Committee Chair Woodson-Samuels, Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Maher and Committee Vice-Chair Williams Johnson

**Absent:** Legislator Imamura and Legislator Parker

## II. OTHER BUSINESS

## III. RECEIVE & FILE

## ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Johnson, the Committee adjourned at 2:10 PM.