

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1 OF 2022

25-22

WHEREAS, Over the past decade, local governments across the United States have increasingly become targets of cybercriminals, victims of ransomware attacks and are under constant or nearly constant cyberattack from many directions; and

WHEREAS, cybersecurity threats are constantly evolving to become more sophisticated and threatening; and

WHEREAS, cyberattacks have already hit New York state agencies, 911 systems, cities, towns and school districts and pose a significant risk to water systems, utilities, airports, schools and health care facilities, and cyberattack complaints increased from 114,702 in 2019 to 241,342 in 2020, according to the FBI; and

WHEREAS, recent cybersecurity incidents such as SolarWinds, Microsoft Exchange, and the Colonial Pipeline are a sobering reminder that U.S. public and private sector entities increasingly face sophisticated malicious cyber activity from both nation-state actors and cyber criminals; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, two well-publicized cases of local government breaches—Atlanta, Georgia, in 2018, and Baltimore, Maryland, in 2019—cost those cities \$15 million and \$18 million, respectively; and

WHEREAS, data breaches result in the expense of discovering and responding to the breach, the cost of downtime, and lost revenue, and the long-term reputational damage to an organization and its brand; and

WHEREAS, cybersecurity breaches could harm individuals whose personally identifiable information in the County's possession is improperly accessed by hackers; and

WHEREAS, a strong cybersecurity strategy to protect critical systems can provide a good security posture against malicious attacks designed to access, alter, delete, destroy or extort an organization's or user's systems and sensitive data, and prevent attacks that aim to disable or disrupt a system's or device's operations; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that Westchester County implement steps to anticipate and prepare for cybersecurity threats because failure to do so places the County at increased risk of suffering otherwise preventable cybersecurity breaches;

FILED
JAN 26 2022
TIMOTHY A. BROWN
COUNTY CLERK
WESTCHESTER COUNTY

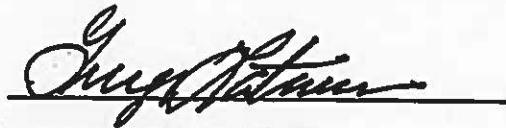
NOW, THEREFORE, I, George Latimer, County Executive of the County of Westchester, in accordance with my statutory duties, do hereby order that there shall be a Task Force on Cybersecurity ("Task Force") to advise the County Executive and the Board of Legislators; and it is further

RESOLVED that the Task Force shall be constituted as follows:

- 1. The Task Force shall consist of nine (9) members;
 - a. The Board of Legislators shall appoint three members of the Task Force;**
 - b. The County Executive shall appoint six (6) members;****
- 2. Of the nine (9) members first appointed, three shall be appointed until December 31, 2022; three (3) shall be appointed until December 31, 2023; and three (3) shall be appointed until December 31, 2024; Thereafter each member of the Task Force shall be appointed to a three (3) year term;**
- 3. The County Executive shall designate the Chair of the Task Force;**
- 4. The Chief Information Officer or her designee shall serve as an ex officio member of the Task Force. Other ex officio members may be designated by the County Executive as deemed necessary;**
- 5. The Chair of the Board of Legislators shall designate one of the members of the Board of Legislators to serve as an ex officio member of the Task Force;**
- 6. The members of the Task Force shall be residents of Westchester County;**
- 7. The members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation;**
- 8. The Task Force shall meet at such times and places as the members determine;**
- 9. The Task Force shall review the County's current cybersecurity policies, procedures, practices and programs to assess the County's overall cybersecurity risks including the County's susceptibility to ransomware attacks;**

10. The Task Force shall recommend effective policies and/or services, strategies, legislation and funding priorities to reduce the threat of cyberattacks, ensure the implementation of procedures for the identification and response to cyberattacks, and that appropriate training for all County employees on cybersecurity is instituted Countywide; and it is further

RESOLVED, that this Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until otherwise superseded or revoked.



GEORGE LATIMER
County Executive

Dated: January , 2022
White Plains, New York