

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, June 12, 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 Emiljana Ulaj will be participating remotely from 520 White Plains Road in Tarrytown, New York 10591

With a quorum present, Chair Boykin called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

Others in Attendance: GUESTS: Sharri Rosen; BOL: Lisa Hochman (remote), Warren Watson and Dayana Gómez-Holguín

Present: Legislator Boykin and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Holstein

Remote: Legislator Parker and Legislator Ulaj

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 10:00am

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

2. Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 10:00am

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

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Updates on Chambers of Commerce and small businesses

Guest:

Sharri Rosen Ascher, Director of Policy and Programs, and Small Business and Chambers of Commerce

Westchester County

Director Rosen's position was created by the County Executive and allowed her the

opportunity to create the first ever multi-chamber meeting which later continued. She conducted a survey and presented it to Economic Development Director Bridget Gibbons and together developed a variety of programs to help businesses. During the pandemic, they provided personal protective equipment (PPE) and grants to many businesses as part of her initiative. There are 30 official chambers and other groups that do not promote themselves as chambers but function similarly. They have conducted four diversability job fairs, including those for people who were formally incarcerated and for people who speak other languages aside from English, among others. The fifth job fair will be on October 9th for diversability and they will also be conducting a clean energy job fair around that time. "The Catalyst" is a website that works as a hub containing all of the resources available to business owners, they do continuous outreach to business owners and gave about \$20 Million in grants from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. Among the initiatives, they provide bilingual outreach and provide resources to educate business owners on how to acquire funding, among other initiatives.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Boykin, the Committee adjourned at 10:53am.