

Budget & Appropriations Meeting Agenda



Committee Chair: Jewel Williams Johnson

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

Monday, March 10, 2025

10:45 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 Colin Smith will be participating remotely from 1132 Main St., Suite 1, Peekskill, NY 10566

MINUTES APPROVAL

Monday, January 6, 2025 at 10:00 AM Minutes

Monday, February 3, 2025 at 10:00 AM Minutes

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [2025-59](#) **IMA-Mental Health Services-Certain Westchester & Putnam County Municipal Corporations**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into inter-municipal agreements with one or more Westchester County and Putnam County municipal corporations, as defined in Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law; and with Putnam County, through which the County would provide preventive, rehabilitative and treatment services under Article 25 (Funding For Substances Abuse Services) and Article 41 (Local and Unified Services) of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law.

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND HUMAN SERVICES

Joint with HS.

Guest: Law Department

Senior Assistant County Attorney Carla Chaves

2. [2025-70](#) **ACT - Charter Revision Commission Legal Counsel - Jones**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to retain, at County expense, Mondaire Jones, Esq., to provide legal counsel and advice to the Westchester County Charter Revision Commission for a term commencing February 25, 2025 and continuing through February 24, 2026.

Joint with LMC.

Guests: Law Department

Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz

Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney Tami Altschiller

3. Discussion on the Liberty Lines Contract

Joint with LMC and PWT.

Guest: County Executive's Office

Director of Operations Joan McDonald


II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

February 5, 2025

TO: Hon. Vedat Gashi, Chair
Hon. Jose Alvarado, Vice Chair
Hon. Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Majority Leader
Hon. Margaret Cunzio, Minority Leader

FROM: Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive 

RE: **Message Requesting Immediate Consideration: IMAs – Certain Westchester and Putnam County Municipal Corporations – Mental Health Services.**

This will confirm my request that the Board of Legislators allow submission of the referenced communication to be submitted to the Board of Legislators February 10, 2025 Agenda.

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is a proposed Act which, if adopted by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Community Mental Health ("Department") to enter into inter-municipal agreements ("IMAs") with certain Westchester County and Putnam County municipal corporations.

Therefore, since this communication is of the utmost importance, it is respectfully submitted that the County Board of Legislators accepts this submission for February 10, 2025 "blue sheet" calendar.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



Kenneth W. Jenkins
Westchester County Executive

February 5, 2025

Westchester County Board of Legislators
Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue, Room 800
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Legislators:

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is a proposed Act which, if adopted by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Community Mental Health ("Department") to enter into inter-municipal agreements ("IMAs") with certain Westchester County and Putnam County municipal corporations, as defined in Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law, and with Putnam County (collectively, "Municipalities"), through which the County would provide preventive, rehabilitative and treatment services under Article 25 (Funding For Substances Abuse Services) and Article 41 (Local and Unified Services) of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law ("Mental Hygiene Law"). These provisions of the Mental Hygiene Law provide a system whereby the County, the State of New York ("State") and other municipal governments cooperate with each other for the provision of preventative, rehabilitative and treatment services and the sharing of resources. Each IMA shall be for a term up to five (5) years, commencing upon execution and expiring on December 31, 2029.

By way of background, on October 21, 2019, your Honorable Board approved Act No. 223- 2019, which authorized the County to enter into similar IMAs with one or more Municipalities, through which the County would provide aforesaid services, for terms of five (5) years, not to extend beyond December 31, 2024.

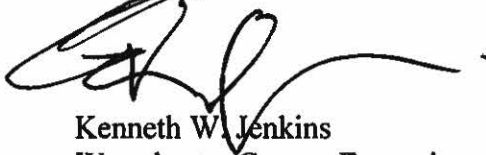
As the existing IMAs expired on December 31, 2024, the County desires to enter into new IMAs with one or more Municipalities which would continue the practice of having the County provide these preventive, rehabilitative and treatment services to one or more Municipalities under Article 25 and Article 41 of the Mental Hygiene Law.

Under the provisions of Articles 25 and 41 of the Mental Hygiene Law, the County receives funding from the State and local municipalities, among others, for the provision of preventive, rehabilitative and treatment service programs for mentally ill, developmentally disabled individuals and those suffering from alcohol and substance abuse. It is recognized that a portion of these services is best provided at the community level through contracts with the Municipalities.

In addition, pursuant to Article 41 of the Mental Hygiene Law, the County also operates an Employee Assistance Program, which provides these services to the employees of the Municipalities. The Municipalities compensate the County for the provision of these services.

I urge your approval of the attached proposed legislation as the continuation of these programs are worthwhile and in the best interests of the County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KWJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kenneth W. Jenkins
Westchester County Executive

KWJ/MO/mkc/cmc
Attachments

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Your Committee is in receipt of proposed legislation which, if adopted by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through its Department of Community Mental Health ("Department"), to enter into inter-municipal agreements ("IMAs") with certain Westchester County and Putnam County municipal corporations, as defined in Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law, and with Putnam County (collectively, "Municipalities"), through which the County would provide preventive, rehabilitative and treatment services under Article 25 (Funding For Substances Abuse Services) and Article 41 (Local and Unified Services) of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law ("Mental Hygiene Law"). These provisions of the Mental Hygiene Law provide a system whereby the County, the State of New York ("State") and other municipal governments cooperate with each other for the provision of preventative, rehabilitative and treatment services and the sharing of resources. Each IMA shall be for a term up to five (5) years, commencing upon execution and expiring on December 31, 2029.

By way of background, on October 21, 2019, your Honorable Board approved Act No. 223- 2019, which authorized the County to enter into similar IMAs with one or more Municipalities, through which the County would provide aforesaid services, for terms of five (5) years, not to extend beyond December 31, 2024.

As the existing IMAs expired on December 31, 2024, the County desires to enter into new IMAs with one or more Municipalities which would continue the practice of having the County provide these preventive, rehabilitative and treatment services to one or more Municipalities under Article 25 and Article 41 of the Mental Hygiene Law.

Under the provisions of Articles 25 and 41 of the Mental Hygiene Law, the County receives funding from the State and local municipalities, among others, for the provision of preventive, rehabilitative and treatment service programs for mentally ill, developmentally disabled individuals and those suffering from alcohol and substance abuse. It is recognized

that a portion of these services is best provided at the community level through contracts with the Municipalities.

In addition, pursuant to Article 41 of the Mental Hygiene Law, the County also operates an Employee Assistance Program, which provides these services to the employees of the Municipalities. The Municipalities compensate the County for the provision of these services.

The Department of Planning has advised your Committee that based on its review, the authorization of the proposed IMAs do not meet the definition of an action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617(2)(b). Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 14, 2025, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators. Your Committee concurs with this recommendation.

Pursuant to the Laws of Westchester County, the proposed Act must be approved by an affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the voting strength of your Honorable Board.

Your Committee believes that the continued support of these worthwhile programs is in the best interests of the County. Accordingly, after due consideration, your Committee recommends adoption of the annexed proposed Act.

Dated: _____, 2025
White Plains, New York

ACT NO. 2025 - _____

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into inter-municipal agreements with one or more Westchester County and Putnam County municipal corporations, as defined in Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law, and with Putnam County, through which the County would provide preventive, rehabilitative and treatment services under Article 25 (Funding For Substances Abuse Services) and Article 41 (Local and Unified Services) of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law

BE IT ENACTED, by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. The County of Westchester ("County") be and hereby is authorized to enter into inter-municipal agreements with Westchester County and Putnam County municipal corporations, as defined in Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law, and with Putnam County, to carry out the purposes of Article 25 and Article 41 of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law and to provide preventive, rehabilitative and treatment service programs for mentally ill, developmentally disabled individuals and those suffering from alcohol and substance abuse. Each agreement shall be for terms up to five (5) years each, commencing upon execution and expiring on December 31, 2029.

§2. The County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized and empowered to execute all instruments and to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

§3. This Act shall take effect immediately.



Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive

Office of the County Attorney

John M. Nonna
County Attorney

February 25, 2025

Westchester County Board of Legislators
County of Westchester
800 Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

Attached for your consideration is an Act which, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the "County") to retain, at County expense, Mondaire Jones, Esq. ("Mr. Jones") to provide legal counsel and advice to the Westchester County Charter Revision Commission (the "Commission"), for a term commencing February 25, 2025 and continuing through February 24, 2026.

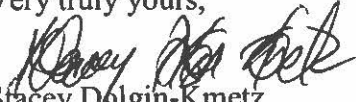
By way of background, Local Law No. 2-2014, duly adopted on or about July 25, 2014, amended the Laws of Westchester County by adding a new Section 194.311 which established the Commission. Pursuant to Section 194.311, the County is required to appoint an independent and non-partisan commission to review and make recommendations to the County Executive and Legislature on amendments, additions or revisions to the Charter and the Laws of Westchester County. In furtherance of Section 194.311, a commission has been appointed and, the Board of Legislators may engage an attorney to provide legal advice and counsel to the Commission.

Mr. Jones earned his bachelor's degree from Stanford University in 2009. After graduating from Stanford, he worked in the U.S. Department of Justice during the Obama presidency. Thereafter, in 2013, he earned his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. After law school, Mr. Jones served as a law clerk for Andrew L. Carter Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and then worked for the firm Davis, Polk & Wardell. Thereafter, Mr. Jones worked in Westchester County Attorney's office in both the Litigation and the Appeals, Legislation and Opinions Bureaus. Mr. Jones has also served as the U.S. Representative for New York's 17th Congressional district from 2021 through 2023. Mr. Jones has a unique background in government at both the federal and county level. His experience as a member of Congress, in drafting federal and local legislation, and his familiarity with the Laws of Westchester County, will allow him to provide invaluable guidance to the Commission in their review of the operations and laws of the government of Westchester County.

For the services rendered to the County, Mr. Jones, who will serve in an "of counsel" capacity to the County Attorney, will be paid at the rate of \$500.00 per hour, for an amount not to exceed the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00).

Based upon the foregoing, your Honorable Board's approval of the attached Act is most respectfully requested.

Very truly yours,



Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz
Acting County Attorney

SDK/nn
Attachments

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Your Committee is in receipt of a proposed Act transmitted by the County Attorney which, if adopted, would authorize the County of Westchester (the “County”) to retain, at County expense, Mondaire Jones, Esq. (“Mr. Jones”) to provide legal counsel and advice to the Westchester County Charter Revision Commission (the “Commission”), for a term commencing February 25, 2025 and continuing through February 24, 2026.

By way of background, Local Law No. 2-2014, duly adopted on or about July 25, 2014, amended the Laws of Westchester County by adding a new Section 194.311 which established the Commission. Pursuant to Section 194.311, the County is required to appoint an independent and non-partisan commission to review and make recommendations to the County Executive and Legislature on amendments, additions or revisions to the Charter and the Laws of Westchester County. In furtherance of Section 194.311, a commission has been appointed and, the Board of Legislators may engage an attorney to provide legal advice and counsel to the Commission.

The County Attorney has advised your Committee that Mr. Jones earned his bachelor’s degree from Stanford University in 2009. After graduating from Stanford, he worked in the U.S. Department of Justice during the Obama presidency. Thereafter, in 2013, he earned his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. After law school, Mr. Jones served as a law clerk for Andrew L. Carter Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and then worked for the firm Davis, Polk & Wardell. Thereafter, Mr. Jones worked in Westchester County Attorney’s office in both the Litigation and the Appeals, Legislation and Opinions Bureaus. Mr. Jones has also served as the U.S. Representative for New York’s 17th Congressional district from 2021 through 2023. Mr. Jones has a unique background in government at both the federal and county level. His experience as a member of Congress, in drafting federal and local legislation, and his familiarity

with the Laws of Westchester County, will allow him to provide invaluable guidance to the Commission in their review of the operations and laws of the government of Westchester County.

For the services rendered to the County, Mr. Jones, who will serve in an “of course!” capacity to the County Attorney, will be paid at the rate of \$500.00 per hour, for an amount not to exceed the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00).

The Planning Department has advised that the proposed retainer agreement does not meet the definition of an action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. As such, no environmental review is required. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 14, 2025, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators.

An affirmative vote of a majority of the voting strength of the Board is required for approval of the attached Act. Your Committee recommends approval of the attached Act.

Dated: _____, 2025
White Plains, New York

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Westchester County Charter Revision NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

SECTION A - FUND

GENERAL FUND

AIRPORT FUND

SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense NTE \$100,000.00

Total Current Year Revenue \$ -

Source of Funds (check one): Current Appropriations Transfer of Existing Appropriations

Additional Appropriations

Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: 101_18_1000_4923

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount N/A

Describe: An Act authorizing the County of Westchester to retain, at County expense, Mondaire Jones, Esq. to provide legal counsel and advice to the Westchester County Charter Revision Commission for a term commencing February 25, 2025 and continuing through February 24, 2026.

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: Annual Amount N/A

Describe: _____

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year: N/A

Next Four Years: N/A

Prepared by: Patricia Haggerty

Title: Sr. Budget Analyst

Department: Budget

Date: February 21, 2025

Reviewed By: 
PH
Budget Director

Date: 2/24/25

ACT NO. 2025 - _____

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§2. For the services rendered to the County, Mr. Jones, who will serve in an “of counsel” capacity to the County Attorney, will be paid at the rate of \$500.00 per hour, for an amount not to exceed the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00).

§3. This Act shall take effect immediately.