

County of Albany

Harold L. Joyce
Albany County Office Building
112 State Street - Albany, NY 12207



Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

6:00 PM

Held Remotely

Law Committee

PREVIOUS BUSINESS:

1. APPROVING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES
2. LOCAL LAW NO. "A" FOR 2021: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, RELATING TO THE PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION, MODIFICATION, AND DISESTABLISHMENT OF TOURISM IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS IN ALBANY COUNTY
3. LOCAL LAW NO. "K" FOR 2021: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF OPIOID MEDICATIONS
4. LOCAL LAW NO. "L" FOR 2021: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, ENSURING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO COUNSEL DURING EVICTION PROCEEDINGS IN HOUSING COURTS IN ALBANY COUNTY
5. LOCAL LAW NO. "M" FOR 2021: A LOCAL LAW CONCERNING THE CUTTING, REPLACING AND PRESERVATION OF FOREST LANDS BY COUNTY AUTHORITIES
6. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "K" FOR 2021 A LOCAL LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF OPIOID MEDICATIONS
7. PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW NO. "M" FOR 2021 A LOCAL LAW CONCERNING THE CUTTING, REPLACING AND PRESERVATION OF FOREST LANDS BY COUNTY AUTHORITIES
8. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "B" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 6 FOR 2017, TO EXEMPT THE COUNTY FROM WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SURCHARGES
9. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "C" FOR 2022 A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK REGULATING THE SALE OF USED CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

10. LOCAL LAW NO. "A" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING THE SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY AND GREEN ENERGY ACT ("STAGE ACT")
11. LOCAL LAW NO. "B" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 6 FOR 2017, TO EXEMPT THE COUNTY FROM WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SURCHARGES
12. LOCAL LAW NO. "C" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK REGULATING THE SALE OF USED CATALYTIC CONVERTERS
13. LOCAL LAW NO. "D" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK IN RELATION TO THE PROMOTION OF FELINE ADOPTION

CURRENT BUSINESS:

14. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "E" FOR 2022 A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 FOR 2013, ENTITLED "AN OMNIBUS HUMAN RIGHTS LAW FOR ALBANY COUNTY"
15. LOCAL LAW NO. "E" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 FOR 2013, ENTITLED "AN OMNIBUS HUMAN RIGHTS LAW FOR ALBANY COUNTY"

County of Albany

*Harold L. Joyce
Albany County Office Building
112 State Street - Albany, NY 12207*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

6:00 PM

Held Remotely

Law Committee

PREVIOUS BUSINESS:

Present: Chairperson Victoria Plotsky, Paul J. Burgdorf, Dennis A. Feeney, Jeffrey D. Kuhn, David B. Mayo, Matthew T. Peter and Bill L. Ricard

Excused: Vice Chair Joanne Cunningham and Jennifer A. Whalen

1. APPROVING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made that the previous meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

2. LOCAL LAW NO. "A" FOR 2021: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, RELATING TO THE PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION, MODIFICATION, AND DISESTABLISHMENT OF TOURISM IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS IN ALBANY COUNTY

This Local Law was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

3. LOCAL LAW NO. "L" FOR 2021: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, ENSURING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO COUNSEL DURING EVICTION PROCEEDINGS IN HOUSING COURTS IN ALBANY COUNTY

This Local Law was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

4. LOCAL LAW NO. "K" FOR 2021: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF OPIOID MEDICATIONS

This Local Law was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

5. LOCAL LAW NO. "M" FOR 2021: A LOCAL LAW CONCERNING THE CUTTING, REPLACING AND PRESERVATION OF FOREST LANDS BY COUNTY AUTHORITIES

This Local Law was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

6. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "K" FOR 2021 A LOCAL LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF OPIOID MEDICATIONS

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

7. PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW NO. "M" FOR 2021 A LOCAL LAW CONCERNING THE CUTTING, REPLACING AND PRESERVATION OF FOREST LANDS BY COUNTY AUTHORITIES

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

8. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "B" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 6 FOR 2017, TO EXEMPT THE COUNTY FROM WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SURCHARGES

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

9. LOCAL LAW NO. "A" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING THE SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY AND GREEN ENERGY ACT ("STAGE ACT")

This Local Law was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

10. LOCAL LAW NO. "B" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 6 FOR 2017, TO EXEMPT THE COUNTY FROM WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SURCHARGES

This Local Law was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

11. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "C" FOR 2022 A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK REGULATING THE SALE OF USED CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

12. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "D" FOR 2022 A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK IN RELATION TO THE PROMOTION OF FELINE ADOPTION

A motion was made to move the proposal forward with a positive recommendation. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

13. LOCAL LAW NO. "C" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK REGULATING THE SALE OF USED CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

This Local Law was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

14. LOCAL LAW NO. "D" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK IN RELATION TO THE PROMOTION OF FELINE ADOPTION

This Local Law was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

15. AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REGARDING THE PANDEMIC EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND GRANT PROGRAM AND AMENDING THE 2022 DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE BUDGET

A motion was made to move the proposal forward with a positive recommendation. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

LOCAL LAW NO. "A" FOR 2021

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, RELATING TO THE PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION, MODIFICATION, AND DISESTABLISHMENT OF TOURISM IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS IN ALBANY COUNTY

Introduced: 2/8/21

By Mr. Efekoro, Mss. Cunningham, Plotsky, Messrs. Miller, Cleary and Reinhardt:

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to promote the economic improvement of Businesses within the County in order to create jobs, attract new Businesses, increase local revenue and promote tourism; and

WHEREAS, it is of particular local benefit to allow Businesses to fund business related services through the levy of Assessments upon the Businesses that receive benefits from those services; and

WHEREAS, Assessments levied for the purpose of conferring benefits upon the tourism Businesses in a Tourism Improvement District shall be related to the costs of providing the services within the Tourism Improvement District and shall not be taxes for the general benefit of the County; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Albany County Legislature to create a mechanism to allow certain Businesses to initiate the formation of Tourism Improvement Districts for the purpose of providing enhanced services for the benefit of those Businesses within the Tourism Improvement District; and

WHEREAS, the Albany County Legislature determines that the establishment, operation, modification, and disestablishment of Tourism Improvement Districts within the County of Albany is a matter of local concern.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF ALBANY COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this law is to establish the procedure for the establishment, operation, modification, and disestablishment of Tourism Improvement Districts within the County, and to ensure that Tourism Improvement District assessments conform to all constitutional requirements and are determined and levied in accordance with the procedure set forth in this law.

Section 2. Severability.

This law is intended to be construed liberally and, if any clause, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder hereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its application to the person or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 3. Definitions.

“Assessment” - means a levy for the purpose of providing Activities and Improvements that will provide benefits to Businesses located within a Tourism Improvement District that are subject to the Tourism Improvement District Assessment. Assessments may be based on a percent of gross business revenue, a fixed dollar amount per transaction, or any other reasonable method approved by the County Legislature.

“Business” - means the type or category of business that is described in the Tourism Improvement District plan and the resolution creating a Tourism Improvement District.

“Business Owner” - means any person recognized by the County as the owner of the Business. The County has no obligation to obtain other information as to the ownership of businesses, and its determination of ownership shall be final and conclusive for the purposes of this law. Wherever this law requires the signature of the Business Owner, the signature of the authorized representative of the Business Owner shall be sufficient.

“Clerk” - means the County Clerk.

“County” - means the County of Albany.

“County Legislature” - means the governing body of the County.

“Local Improvement” - means, but is not limited to, all of the following that benefit Businesses in the Tourism Improvement District:

- (a) Promotion of Business activity, including but not limited to tourism, of Businesses subject to the Assessment within the Tourism Improvement District.

- (b) Other services provided for the purpose of conferring benefits upon Businesses located in the Tourism Improvement District that are subject to the Tourism Improvement District Assessment including, but not limited to, transportation services.
- (c) The acquisition, construction, installation, or maintenance of any tangible property.

“Owners’ Association” - means a private nonprofit entity that is under contract with the County to administer the Tourism Improvement District and implement Activities and Improvements specified in the Tourism Improvement District Plan. An Owners’ Association shall have full discretion to select the specific Activities and Improvements to be funded with Tourism Improvement District Assessment revenue, within the authorized parameters of the Tourism Improvement District Plan. An Owners’ Association may be an existing nonprofit entity or a newly formed nonprofit entity. An Owners’ Association is a private entity and may not be considered a public entity for any purpose, nor may its board members or staff be considered to be public officials for any purpose.

“Tourism Improvement District” - means a Tourism Improvement District established pursuant to this law.

“Tourism Improvement District Plan” - means a proposal as defined in Section 5.

Section 4. Establishment of Tourism Improvement District.

A Tourism Improvement District may be established as provided in this law.

Section 5. Contents of Tourism Improvement District Plan.

The Tourism Improvement District Plan shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- (a) A map that identifies the Tourism Improvement District boundaries in sufficient detail to allow a Business Owner to reasonably determine whether a Business is located within the Tourism Improvement District boundaries. The boundaries of a Tourism Improvement District may overlap with other Tourism Improvement Districts established pursuant to this law.
- (b) The name of the proposed Tourism Improvement District.
- (c) The Activities and Improvements proposed for each year of operation of the Tourism Improvement District and the estimated cost thereof. If the Activities and Improvements proposed for each year of operation are the

same, a description of the first year's proposed Activities and Improvements and a statement that the same Activities and Improvements are proposed for subsequent years shall satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

- (d) The estimated annual amount proposed to be expended for Activities and Improvements in each year of operation of the Tourism Improvement District. This amount may be estimated based upon the Assessment rate. If the estimated annual amount proposed to be expended in each year of operation of the Tourism Improvement District is not significantly different, the amount proposed to be expended in the initial year and a statement that a similar amount applies to subsequent years shall satisfy the requirements of this subsection.
- (e) The proposed source or sources of financing, including the proposed method and basis of levying the Assessment in sufficient detail to allow each Business Owner to calculate the amount of the Assessment to be levied against his or her Business. The Tourism Improvement District Plan may set forth specific increases in assessments for each year of operation of the Tourism Improvement District.
- (f) The time and manner of collecting the Assessments and any interest and/or penalties for non-payment.
- (g) The specific number of years in which Assessments will be levied. In a new Tourism Improvement District, the maximum number of years shall be ten (10). In a renewed Tourism Improvement District, the maximum number of years shall be ten (10).
- (h) Any proposed rules and regulations to be applicable to the Tourism Improvement District.
- (i) A definition describing the type or category of Businesses to be included in the Tourism Improvement District and subject to the Tourism Improvement District Assessment.
- (j) Any other item or matter required to be incorporated therein by the County Legislature.

Section 6. Initiation of Proceedings; Petition of Business Owners in Proposed Tourism Improvement District

- (a) Petitions, with a signature of assessed Business Owners or their duly authorized representatives, shall be returned to the County Legislature.

- (b) The County Legislature may initiate proceedings to form a Tourism Improvement District by the adoption of a resolution expressing its intention to form a Tourism Improvement District, if it determines that:
- i) Assessed Businesses representing over fifty percent (50%) of the sleeping rooms in the proposed Tourism Improvement District, which also represent over fifty percent (50%) of all assessed Businesses by number within the proposed Tourism Improvement District, have submitted petitions in favor of the formation of the Tourism Improvement District; or
 - ii) Assessed Businesses who will pay more than fifty percent (50%) of the Assessments proposed to be levied, which also represent over fifty percent (50%) of all assessed Businesses by number within the proposed Tourism Improvement District, have submitted petitions in favor of the formation of the Tourism Improvement District.
- (c) The petition of Business Owners required under subsection (a) shall include a summary of the Tourism Improvement District Plan. That summary shall include all of the following:
- i) A map showing the boundaries of the Tourism Improvement District.
 - ii) The types or categories of Businesses that will be subject to the Assessment.
 - iii) The Assessment rate for each type or category of Business that will be subject to the Assessment.
 - iv) Information specifying where the complete Tourism Improvement District Plan can be obtained.
 - v) Information specifying that the complete Tourism Improvement District Plan shall be furnished upon request.
- (d) The resolution of intention described in subsection (a) shall contain all of the following:
- i) A brief description of the proposed Activities and Improvements, the amount of the proposed Assessment, a statement describing the Businesses within the proposed Tourism Improvement District that will be subject to the Assessment, and a description of the exterior boundaries of the proposed Tourism Improvement District, which may be made by reference to any plan or map that is on file with the Clerk. The descriptions and statements do not need to be detailed and shall be sufficient if they enable a Business Owner to generally identify the nature and extent of the Activities and Improvements, and the location and extent of the proposed Tourism Improvement District.

- ii) A time and place for a public hearing on the establishment of the Tourism Improvement District and the levy of Assessments, which shall be consistent with the requirements of Section 7.

Section 7. Procedure to Establish or Renew a Tourism Improvement District and Levy Assessment.

- (a) If the County Legislature has adopted a resolution of intention to establish or renew a Tourism Improvement District and levy a new or increased Tourism Improvement District Assessment, it shall hold a public hearing on the establishment or renewal of the Tourism Improvement District prior to adoption of the resolution establishing or renewing the Tourism Improvement District and levying the Assessment. Notice of the public hearing shall be mailed to the owners of the Businesses proposed to be subject to the Assessment.
- (b) The County Legislature shall provide at least thirty (30) days' written notice of the public hearing at which the County Legislature proposes to establish or renew the Tourism Improvement District and levy the Assessment.
- (c) A protest may be made by any Business Owner that will be subject to the proposed Assessment. Every protest must be in writing and shall be filed with the Clerk at or before the time fixed for the public hearing. The County Legislature may waive any irregularity in the form or content of any written protest. A written protest may be withdrawn in writing at any time before the conclusion of the public hearing. Each written protest shall contain a description of the Business in which the person subscribing the protest is interested sufficient to identify the Business and, if a person subscribing is not shown on the official records of the County as the owner of the Business, the protest shall contain or be accompanied by written evidence that the person subscribing is the owner of the Business or the authorized representative. A written protest that does not comply with this section shall not be counted in determining a majority protest. If written protests are received from Business Owners representing more than fifty percent (50%) of the same basis used to determine the petition in Section 6 (a) and protests are not withdrawn so as to reduce the protests to less than fifty percent (50%), no further proceedings to levy the proposed Assessment against such Businesses, as contained in the resolution of intention, shall be taken for a period of one year from the date of the finding of a majority protest by the County Legislature.

Section 8. Changes to Proposed Tourism Improvement District Plan

At the conclusion of the public hearing to establish or renew the Tourism Improvement District, the County Legislature may adopt, revise, change, reduce, or modify the proposed Assessments, the boundaries of the Tourism Improvement District, or the types or categories of Businesses within the Tourism Improvement District subject to the Assessment. Proposed Assessments may only be revised by reducing any or all of them. The proposed Tourism Improvement District boundary may only be revised to exclude territory that will not benefit from the proposed Activities and Improvements. The types or categories of Businesses that will be subject to the proposed Assessment may only be revised to exclude the Business types or categories that will not benefit from the proposed Activities and Improvements. Any modifications, revisions, reductions, or changes to the proposed Tourism Improvement District Plan shall be reflected in the Tourism Improvement District Plan prior to the County Legislature' adoption of the resolution creating or renewing the Tourism Improvement District.

Section 9. Resolution Establishing or Renewing a Tourism Improvement District

- (a) If the County Legislature, following the public hearing, decides to establish or renew a proposed Tourism Improvement District, the County Legislature shall adopt a resolution of formation or renewal that shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following:
 - i) A brief description of the proposed Activities and Improvements, the amount of the proposed Assessment, a statement as to the types or categories of Businesses that will be subject to the Assessment, and a description of the exterior boundaries of the Tourism Improvement District, which may be made by reference to any plan or map that is on file with the County Clerk. The descriptions and statements need not be detailed and shall be sufficient if they enable an owner to generally identify the nature and extent of the Activities and Improvements and the location and extent of the Tourism Improvement District.
 - ii) The number, date of adoption, and title of the resolution of intention.
 - iii) The time and place where the public hearing was held concerning the establishment or renewal of the Tourism Improvement District.
 - iv) A determination regarding any protests received. The County Legislature shall not establish or renew the Tourism Improvement District or levy Assessments if a majority protest was received.
 - v) A statement that the Businesses in the Tourism Improvement District established by the resolution shall be subject to any amendments to this law.
 - vi) A statement that the Activities and Improvements to be conferred on Businesses in the Tourism Improvement District will be funded by the levy of Assessments. The revenue from the levy of Assessments within a Tourism Improvement District shall not be used to for any purpose

other than the purposes specified in the Tourism Improvement District Plan, as modified by the County Legislature at the hearing concerning establishment or renewal of the Tourism Improvement District.

vii) A finding that the Businesses within the Tourism Improvement District will be benefited by the Activities and Improvements funded by the Tourism Improvement District Assessments.

(b) The adoption of the resolution of formation or renewal shall constitute the levy of Assessments in each of the fiscal years referred to in the Tourism Improvement District Plan.

Section 10. Expiration of Tourism Improvement District; Creation of new Tourism Improvement District Plan; Renewal of Tourism Improvement District.

If a Tourism Improvement District expires due to the time limit set pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 5, a new Tourism Improvement District Plan may be created and the Tourism Improvement District may be renewed pursuant to this law.

Section 11. Time and Manner of Collection of Assessments; Delinquent Payments.

The collection of the Assessments levied pursuant to this law shall be made at the time and in the manner set forth by the County Legislature in the resolution establishing or renewing the Tourism Improvement District and levying the Assessments. All delinquent payments for Assessments levied pursuant to this part may be charged interest and penalties.

Section 12. Time for Contesting Validity of Assessment.

The validity of an Assessment levied under this law shall not be contested in any action or proceeding unless the action or proceeding is commenced within thirty (30) days after the resolution establishing or renewing a Tourism Improvement District and levying the Assessment is adopted pursuant to Section 9. Any appeal from a final judgment in an action or proceeding shall be perfected within thirty (30) days after the entry of judgment.

Section 13. Certification to Establish Levels of County Services and Funding.

Prior to the establishment of a Tourism Improvement District, the County Legislature may certify the levels of County services and funding that will continue after a Tourism Improvement District has been formed.

Section 14. Request to Modify Tourism Improvement District Plan.

The owners' association may, at any time, request that the County Legislature modify the tourism improvement district plan. Any modification of the tourism improvement district plan shall be made pursuant to this law. The tourism improvement district plan shall not be modified, except by the request of the Owners' Association and only in the manner requested by the Owners' Association.

Section 15. Modification of Tourism Improvement District Plan by Resolution after Public Hearing; Adoption of Resolution of Intention.

- (a) Upon the written request of the Owners' Association, the County Legislature may modify the Tourism Improvement District Plan after conducting one (1) public hearing on the proposed modifications. The County Legislature may modify the Activities and Improvements to be funded with the revenue derived from the levy of the Assessments by adopting a resolution determining to make the modifications after holding a public hearing on the proposed modifications. If the modification includes the levy of new or increased Assessments, the County Legislature shall comply with Section 7. Notice of all other public hearings pursuant to this section shall comply with both of the following:
 - i) The resolution of intention shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County once at least seven (7) days before the public hearing.
 - ii) A complete copy of the resolution of intention shall be mailed by first class mail, at least ten (10) days before the public hearing, to each Business Owner affected by the proposed modification.
- (b) The County Legislature shall adopt a resolution of intention which states the proposed modification prior to the public hearing required by this section. The public hearing shall be held not more than ninety (90) days after the adoption of the resolution of intention.

Section 16. Report by Owners' Association; Approval or Modification by County Legislature.

- (a) The Owners' Association shall cause to be prepared a report for each fiscal year, except the first year, for which Assessments are to be levied and collected to pay the costs of the Activities described in the report. The Owners' Association's first report shall be due ninety (90) days after the first year of operation of the Tourism Improvement District.
- (b) The report shall be filed with the Clerk and shall refer to the Tourism Improvement District by name, specify the fiscal year to which the report

applies, and, with respect to that fiscal year, shall contain all of the following information:

- i) The Activities and Improvements to be provided for that fiscal year.
 - ii) An estimate of the cost of providing the Activities and Improvements for that fiscal year.
 - iii) The method and basis of levying the Assessments in sufficient detail to allow each Business Owner to estimate the amount of the assessment to be levied against his or her Business for that fiscal year.
 - iv) The estimated amount of any surplus or deficit revenues to be carried over from a previous fiscal year.
- (c) The County's Department of Audit and Control shall, upon requests the Owners Association for a copy of all reports and documents provided under this Section.

Section 17. Designation of Owners' Association to Provide Activities and Improvements

The Tourism Improvement District Plan may, but is not required to, state that an Owners' Association will provide the Activities and Improvements described in the Tourism Improvement District Plan. If the Tourism Improvement District Plan designates an Owners' Association, the County Legislature shall contract with the designated nonprofit corporation to provide Activities and Improvements in the Tourism Improvement District.

Section 18. Renewal of Tourism Improvement District; Transfer or Refund of Remaining Revenues

- (a) Any Tourism Improvement District previously established whose term has expired, or will expire, may be renewed by following the procedures for establishment as provided in this law.
- (b) Upon renewal, any remaining revenues derived from the levy of Assessments, or any revenues derived from the sale of assets acquired with the revenues, shall be transferred to the renewed Tourism Improvement District.
- (c) There is no requirement that the boundaries, Assessments, Activities, or Improvements of a renewed Tourism Improvement District be the same as the original or prior Tourism Improvement District.

Section 19. Circumstances Permitting Disestablishment of Tourism Improvement District; Procedure.

- (a) Any Tourism Improvement District established or extended pursuant to the provisions of this law, where there is no indebtedness, outstanding and unpaid, incurred to accomplish any of the purposes of the Tourism Improvement District, may be disestablished by resolution by the County Legislature in either of the following circumstances:
- i) If the County Legislature finds there has been misappropriation of funds, malfeasance, or a violation of law in connection with the management of the Tourism Improvement District, it shall notice a hearing on disestablishment.
 - ii) During the operation of the Tourism Improvement District, there shall be a thirty (30) day period in which Businesses subject to the Assessment may request disestablishment of the Tourism Improvement District. The first such period shall begin two (2) years after the date of establishment of the Tourism Improvement District and shall continue for thirty (30) days. Each successive year of operation of the Tourism Improvement District shall have such a thirty (30) day period. Upon the written petition of Business Owners representing more than fifty percent (50%) of the same bases used to determine the petition in Section 6 (a), the County Legislature shall pass a resolution of intention to disestablish the Tourism Improvement District. The County Legislature shall notice a hearing on disestablishment.
- (b) The County Legislature shall adopt a resolution of intention to disestablish the Tourism Improvement District prior to the public hearing required by this section. The resolution shall state the reason for the disestablishment, shall state the time and place of the public hearing, and shall contain a proposal to dispose of any assets acquired with the revenues of the Assessments levied within the Tourism Improvement District. The notice of the hearing on disestablishment required by this section shall be given by mail to the owner of each Business subject to Assessments in the Tourism Improvement District. The County Legislature shall conduct the public hearing not less than thirty (30) days after mailing the notice to the Business Owners. The public hearing shall be held not more than sixty (60) days after the adoption of the resolution of intention. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the County Legislature shall adopt a resolution disestablishing the Tourism Improvement District.

Section 20. Refund of Remaining Revenues upon Disestablishment or Expiration without renewal of Tourism Improvement District; Calculation of Refund; Use of Outstanding Revenue Collected after Disestablishment of Tourism Improvement District.

Upon the disestablishment or expiration without renewal of a Tourism Improvement District, any remaining revenues, after all outstanding debts are paid, derived from the levy of Assessments, or derived from the sale of assets acquired with the revenues, shall be spent in accordance with the Tourism Improvement District Plan or shall be refunded to the owners of the Businesses then located and operating within the Tourism Improvement District in which Assessments were levied by applying the same method and basis that was used to calculate the Assessments levied in the fiscal year in which the Tourism Improvement District is disestablished or expires.

Section 21. SEQRA Compliance.

This County Legislature determines that this local law constitutes a “Type II action” pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and that no further action under SEQRA is required.

Section 22. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect immediately.

Referred to Law and Economic Development Committees – 2/8/21

Favorable Recommendation Law Committee – 3/24/21

Without Recommendation Economic Development Committee – 3/24/21

Referred to Law Committee – 4/12/21



DANIEL P. MCCOY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

COUNTY OF ALBANY
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
112 STATE STREET, ROOM 1200
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207-2021
(518) 447-7040 - FAX (518) 447-5589
WWW.ALBANYCOUNTY.COM

DANIEL C. LYNCH, ESQ.
DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

August 3, 2020

Honorable Andrew Joyce, Chairman
Albany County Legislature
112 State Street, Room 710
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Chairman Joyce:

The Office of the Albany County Executive respectfully requests that the Legislature enact a Local Law enabling the establishment of Tourism Improvement Districts (TID) in Albany County. The attached draft Local Law outlines the procedures the establishment, operation, modification, and disestablishment of these Districts. Tourism Improvement Districts, similar to Business Improvement Districts, are self-assessments on businesses in order to fund marketing efforts to increase the number of overnight visitors to an area.

The Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau (Discover Albany), in partnership with the County Executive's Office, has worked with local hotels to develop widespread support for this supplemental funding which will provide enhanced services for the benefit of businesses within a District. These services include, but are not limited to: (1) marketing, (2) sales, (3) visitor enhancements, and (4) destination enhancements.

Hotels rely on consistent and effective marketing to increase occupancy, fill meeting space, and increase visitation during the winter season. Limited marketing funding, relative to our competition, has resulted in lost tourism opportunities for Albany County in recent years. By supplementing Hotel Occupancy Tax funding with a two percent fee on room bills, a TID will allow Discover Albany to better compete for tourism without burdening County taxpayers.

Additionally, while protecting public health remains the top priority during COVID-19, the impact of the pandemic on the tourism industry cannot be overstated. Establishing the framework for a Tourism Improvement District is an important first step in the effort to help rebuild our tourism industry in Albany County.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel P. McCoy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive

cc: Hon. Dennis Feeney, Majority Leader
Hon. Frank Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel
Arnis Zilgme, Minority Counsel



Legislation Text

File #: TMP-1746, Version: 1

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Description (e.g., Contract Authorization for Information Services):

Enabling the Establishment of Tourism Improvement Districts in Albany County

Date: 8/1/2020
Submitted By: Lucas Rogers
Department: Office of the County Executive
Title: Senior Policy Analyst
Phone: 518-447-7040
Department Rep.
Attending Meeting: Lucas Rogers/Michael McLaughlin

Purpose of Request:

- Adopting of Local Law
- Amendment of Prior Legislation
- Approval/Adoption of Plan/Procedure
- Bond Approval
- Budget Amendment
- Contract Authorization
- Countywide Services
- Environmental Impact/SEQR
- Home Rule Request
- Property Conveyance
- Other: (state if not listed) Click or tap here to enter text.

CONCERNING BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Increase/decrease category (choose all that apply):

- Contractual
- Equipment
- Fringe
- Personnel

- Personnel Non-Individual
- Revenue

Increase Account/Line No.: Click or tap here to enter text.
Source of Funds: Click or tap here to enter text.
Title Change: Click or tap here to enter text.

CONCERNING CONTRACT AUTHORIZATIONS

Type of Contract:

- Change Order/Contract Amendment
- Purchase (Equipment/Supplies)
- Lease (Equipment/Supplies)
- Requirements
- Professional Services
- Education/Training
- Grant

Choose an item.

Submission Date Deadline Click or tap to enter a date.

- Settlement of a Claim
- Release of Liability
- Other: (state if not listed) Click or tap here to enter text.

Contract Terms/Conditions:

Party (Name/address):
Click or tap here to enter text.

Additional Parties (Names/addresses):
Click or tap here to enter text.

Amount/Raise Schedule/Fee: Click or tap here to enter text.
Scope of Services: Click or tap here to enter text.

Bond Res. No.: Click or tap here to enter text.
Date of Adoption: Click or tap here to enter text.

CONCERNING ALL REQUESTS

Mandated Program/Service: Yes No
If Mandated Cite Authority: Click or tap here to enter text.

Is there a Fiscal Impact: Yes No
Anticipated in Current Budget: Yes No

County Budget Accounts:

Revenue Account and Line: Click or tap here to enter text.
Revenue Amount: Click or tap here to enter text.

Appropriation Account and Line: Click or tap here to enter text.
Appropriation Amount: Click or tap here to enter text.

Source of Funding - (Percentages)

Federal: Click or tap here to enter text.
State: Click or tap here to enter text.
County: Click or tap here to enter text.
Local: Click or tap here to enter text.

Term

Term: (Start and end date) Click or tap here to enter text.
Length of Contract: Click or tap here to enter text.

Impact on Pending Litigation

If yes, explain: Yes No
Click or tap here to enter text.

Previous requests for Identical or Similar Action:

Resolution/Law Number: Click or tap here to enter text.
Date of Adoption: Click or tap here to enter text.

Justification: (state briefly why legislative action is requested)

The Office of the Albany County Executive respectfully requests that the Legislature enact a Local Law enabling the establishment of Tourism Improvement Districts (TID) in Albany County. The attached draft Local Law outlines the procedures the establishment, operation, modification, and disestablishment of these Districts. Tourism Improvement Districts, similar to Business Improvement Districts, are self-assessments on businesses in order to fund marketing efforts to increase the number of overnight visitors to an area.

The Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau (Discover Albany), in partnership with the County Executive's Office, has worked with local hotels to develop widespread support for this supplemental funding which will provide enhanced services for the benefit of businesses within a District. These services include, but are not limited to: (1) marketing, (2) sales, (3) visitor enhancements, and (4) destination enhancements.

Hotels rely on consistent and effective marketing to increase occupancy, fill meeting space, and increase visitation during the winter season. Limited marketing funding, relative to our competition, has resulted in lost tourism opportunities for Albany County in recent years. By supplementing Hotel Occupancy Tax funding with a two percent fee on room bills, the TID will allow Discover Albany to better compete for tourism without burdening County taxpayers.

Additionally, while protecting public health remains the top priority during COVID-19, the impact of the pandemic on the tourism industry cannot be overstated. Establishing the framework for a Tourism Improvement District is an important first step in the effort to help rebuild our tourism industry in Albany County.

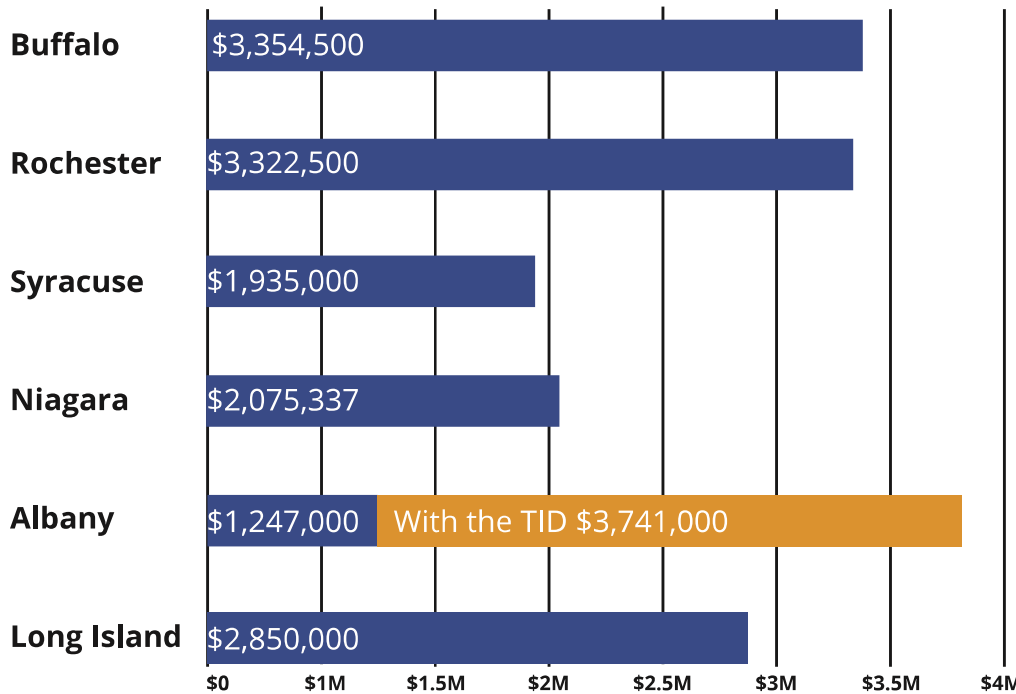
Albany County

TOURISM IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (TID)

What is a TID?

A TID, or Tourism Improvement District, much like a Business Improvement District is a self-assessment on a business in order to fund marketing efforts which would increase the number of overnight visitors to the area.

Discover Albany is not asking the County for more money. They are asking the County to **allow them to raise their own additional funds**. This is how they will catch up to – and ultimately surpass – their competition.



*Based on pre-COVID-19 Occupancy Tax data.

Why is this in addition to the current HOT tax and not a Replacement?

This is supplemental funding - the hotels are self-imposing this assessment via a 2% fee on room bills in order to enhance the work that their current Occupancy Tax collections support. If you take away one, the remaining funds will be insufficient to achieve the goals of the destination. In addition, hotels will not be willing to self-assess without continuation to receive existing funding at the current rate which is their responsibility to collect.

How Discover Albany will use the TID to invest in Albany County Tourism?

SALES



Sports

Bid Fees

MARKETING



TV/Social Videos

Discover Albany Brand Awareness

Enhanced Ad Campaigns to Bring International Travelers

VISITOR ENHANCEMENT



Mobile Visitors Center for County-Wide Events

Adopt technology to enhance visitor experience

DESTINATION ENHANCEMENTS



Invest Money into Destination to Improve Visitor Experience

COVID-19 RECOVERY



Events lost due to lack of funding:

United Church Pentecost International	U.S. National Jump Rope Championships
New York State Association of Fire Chiefs	New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors
Future Business Leaders of America	National Grange of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry
Association of Food and Drug Officials	Drum Corp Championships
NYS Rural Water Association	Lions Club of New York

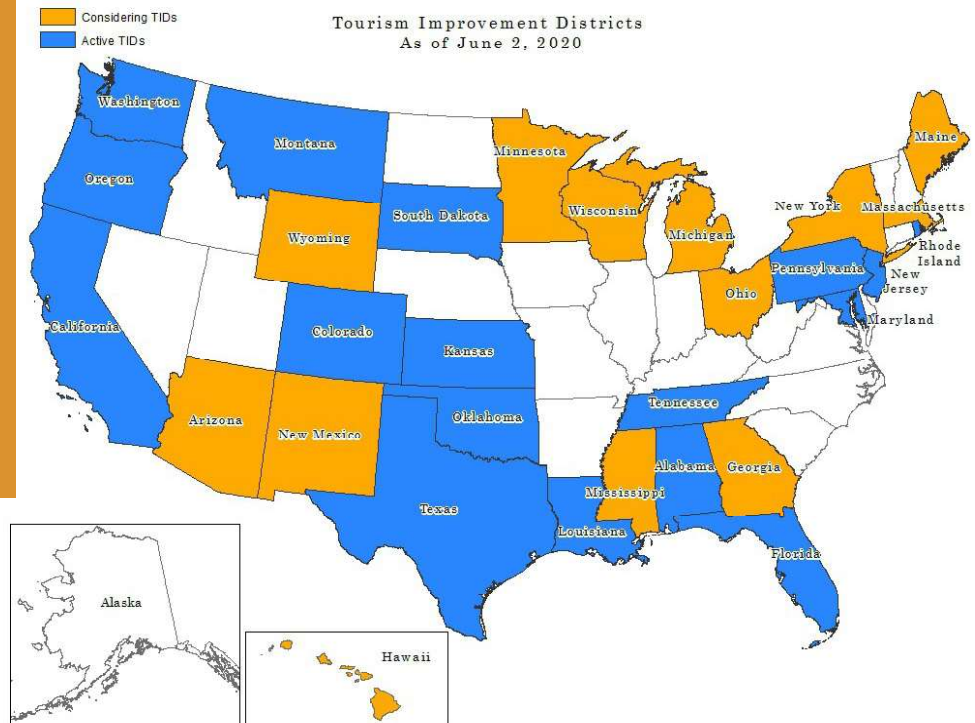
With the lack of marketing funds and focus, we have lost these events totaling over 22,000 room nights and \$17 million in economic impact to Albany County and local hotels. These hotels rely on consistent and creative marketing to:

- Increase Occupancy
- Fill Meeting Space
- Increase visitation during the winter season
- Increase annual REVPAR

It is Discover Albany's responsibility to ensure that hoteliers continue to see an increase in occupancy and ADR making this a viable destination for the investment for years to come.

Who else is doing it?

Each year, more than 180 tourism improvement districts throughout the United States raise more than \$430 million for destination marketing. There are currently active TIDs in 17 states, with the latest formation happening in Mobile, AL in May 2020.



LOCAL LAW NO. “K” FOR 2021

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF OPIOID MEDICATIONS

Introduced: 9/13/21

By: Messrs. A. Joyce, Feeney and Domalewicz, Beston, Bruschi, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Cleary, Commisso, Efekoro, Ethier, Fein, R. Joyce, Kuhn, Ms. Lekakis, Mr. Mayo, Mss. McLaughlin, Mclean Lane, Messrs. Miller, Reidy, Reinhardt, Ricard, Simpson and Smith:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, as follows:

SECTION 1: TITLE

This Local Law shall be known as “The Albany County Prescription Opioid Safe Disposal Law.”

SECTION 2: PURPOSE AND INTENT

In 2017, this honorable body authorized the County Attorney to join litigation against major drug manufacturers to recover current and future damages to the County taxpayers from abuse of opioid pharmaceuticals. Since then, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to an increase in drug-related overdoses in the County. Any reduction in the availability of opioid medications by persons for which the drugs were not prescribed will assist the efforts of ending the opioid epidemic. Proper safe disposal of unused opioids is essential to being certain the drugs do not end up in the wrong hands, or in our environment.

Portable personal use pharmaceutical disposal systems enable the safe and environmentally friendly deactivation of the harmful chemical compounds in opioids. These inexpensive devices can assist in the proper disposal of opioids if provided to wherever a prescription is filled. Under the Albany County Prescription Opioid Safe Disposal Law, points of distribution for prescription opioids within the County will be required to provide each patient with a portable personal use pharmaceutical disposal system with each opioid prescription. Placing prescription opioid disposal systems directly in the hands of patients when the prescription is delivered will provide a more immediate and efficient opportunity for patients to deactivate and properly dispose of prescribed opioids thereby further mitigating the adverse effects of opioids on our County residents and the community.

SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS

3.1 “Controlled opioid” means each opioid-related drug and other substance listed in paragraphs (b) and (c) of Schedule II of Section 1308.12 of Part 1308-Schedules of Controlled Substances of Title 21 of the code of Federal Regulations.

3.2 “Deliver” or “delivery” means the actual, constructive or attempted transfer from one person to another of a prescribed opioid, whether or not there is an agency relationship.

3.3 “Dispense” means to deliver a prescribed opioid to an ultimate user, including by means of the internet, and includes the packaging, labelling, or compounding necessary to prepare the substance for delivery.

3.4 “Internet” means, collectively, computer and telecommunications facilities which comprise the worldwide network of networks that employ a set of industry standards and protocols, or any predecessor or successor protocol to such protocol, to exchange information of all kinds. “Internet,” as used in this Local Law, also includes other networks, whether private or public, used to transmit information by electronic means.

3.5 “Non-retrievable” means the condition or state to which an Opioid shall be rendered following a process that permanently alters that Opioid’s physical or chemical condition or state through irreversible means and thereby renders the Opioid unavailable and unusable for all practical purposes. An Opioid is considered “Non-retrievable” when it cannot be transformed to a physical or chemical condition or state as a controlled substance, as defined in 21 C.F.R. 802(6), or controlled substance analogue, as defined in 21 C.F.R. 802(32)(A).

3.6 “Opioid” means any drug or other substance having an addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability similar to morphine or being capable of conversion into a drug having such addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability.

3.7 “Person” means individual, institution, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership or association, or any other legal entity.

3.8 “Pharmaceutical disposal system” means a portable product designed for personal use by the ultimate user for the purpose of allowing the ultimate user of a prescribed opioid to deactivate the prescribed opioid to a non-retrievable condition or state.

3.8 “Practitioner” means a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or other person licensed or otherwise permitted under law to dispense a prescribed opioid. Such person shall be deemed a “practitioner” only as to such substances, or conduct relating to such substances, as is permitted by his or her license, permit or otherwise permitted by law.

3.9 “Prescribed opioid” means any controlled opioid dispensed pursuant to a prescription by a practitioner.

3.10 “Prescription” shall mean an official New York state prescription, an electronic prescription, an oral prescription, an out-of-state prescription, or any one of the foregoing.

3.11 “Ultimate user” means a person who has lawfully obtained, and who possesses, a prescribed opioid for his or her own use or for the use of a member of his or her household.

SECTION 4: PHARMACEUTICAL DISPOSAL SYSTEM REQUIREMENT

4.1 Simultaneously with the delivery of a prescribed opioid in the County to an ultimate user, the person authorized by law to dispense such prescribed opioid must also simultaneously deliver to the ultimate user a pharmaceutical disposal system.

4.2 No person delivering a pharmaceutical disposal system to an ultimate user pursuant to Section 4.1 of this Local Law may charge the ultimate user a fee or other monetary amount for the pharmaceutical disposal system itself, the delivery of the pharmaceutical disposal system to the ultimate user, or any other cost incurred by such person with respect to his, her or its compliance with Section 4.1 of this Local Law.

SECTION 5: ENFORCEMENT

The County Department of Health is hereby granted and shall have the authority to enforce this Local Law on behalf of the County. The County Department of Health may coordinate enforcement with the County Department of Consumer Affairs.

SECTION 6: PENALTIES

Upon a violation of this Local Law the County Department of Health is hereby authorized to enforce this Local Law by exercise of any one or more of its powers granted to it under the New York State Public Health Law and regulations thereunder, including, without limitation, imposition of a civil penalty not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000) upon a person for any and each and every violation of, or failure to comply with, any provision of this Local Law.

SECTION 7: AUTHORITY TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS

7.1 The Commissioner of the Albany County Department of Health (“Commissioner”) is hereby authorized and empowered to promulgate such rules and regulations as he or she deems necessary to implement this law.

7.2 Any rules and regulations promulgated by the Commissioner shall provide a mechanism for covering the costs associated with the pharmaceutical disposal

systems, with such costs being covered out of any settlement related to the lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies.

SECTION 8: ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

8.1 In adopting and implementing this Local Law, the County assumes an undertaking only to promote the general welfare. The County does not assume or impose upon its officials and employees an obligation by which any one or more of them could be liable in money damages to any person or entity who claims that a breach proximately caused injury.

8.2 This Local Law shall be construed so as not to conflict with applicable federal or state laws, rules or regulations. Nothing in this Local Law shall authorize any County bureau or department to impose any duties or obligations in conflict with limitations on municipal authority established by state or federal law at the time such bureau or department action is taken. The County shall suspend enforcement of this Local Law to the extent that said enforcement would conflict with any preemptive state or federal legislation subsequently adopted.

8.3 Nothing in this Local Law is intended to protect anticompetitive or collusive conduct nor shall this Local Law be construed to modify, impair, or supersede the operation of any antitrust law or unfair competition law of the State of New York or the United States.

8.4 This Local Law shall be construed in accordance with New York State law, including, without limitation, Title 15 (Storage, Treatment, Disposal and Transportation of Regulated Medical Waste) of Article 27 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law, and shall not be construed in any way that would result in conflict with or preemption by any state law.

8.5 This Local Law shall be null and void on the date that statewide or federal legislation goes into effect, incorporating either the same or substantially similar provisions as are contained in this Local Law, or in the event that a pertinent state or federal administrative agency issues and promulgates regulations preempting such action by the County. The County Legislature may determine by resolution whether or not identical or substantially similar statewide legislation has been enacted for the purposes of triggering the provisions of this Section 6.5.

SECTION 9: STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT COMPLIANCE

The County Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this Local Law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and/or (27) of Title 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the New York Environmental Conservation Law as a promulgation of

regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection.

SECTION 10: SEVERABILITY

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, or business shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its specific application.

SECTION 11: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall become effective as provided in Municipal Home Rule Law §27.

Referred to Law and Health Committees – 9/13/21

LOCAL LAW NO. "L" FOR 2021

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, ENSURING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO COUNSEL DURING EVICTION PROCEEDINGS IN HOUSING COURTS IN ALBANY COUNTY

Introduced: 9/13/21

By Messrs. Fein, Efekoro and Ms. Lekakis:

BE IT ENACTED by the County Legislature of the County of Albany as follows:

SECTION 1. TITLE

This local law shall be known as the "Albany County Right to Counsel Act"

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

While those facing criminal prosecution have a legal right to an attorney, as determined in the Supreme Court case *Gideon v. Wainwright*, those facing eviction are not guaranteed representation. Right to counsel legislation would address a significant imbalance in representation in housing court. In 2018, in landlord tenant cases in Albany City Court, only 2.4% of defendants had counsel while 85.7% of plaintiffs had counsel.

Rent is a significant burden for many individuals in Albany County. The COVID pandemic has exacerbated already deep problems of housing insecurity and has highlighted the struggles many families face. In the City of Albany, 49% of families of color are rent-burdened and 35% of white families are rent burdened (meaning they spent more than 30% of their income on rent).

Right to counsel would strengthen protections for individuals facing eviction, ensuring that they are adequately represented in court. When someone is at risk of losing their housing, they deserve the full hearing in court which only a lawyer is capable of advocating for.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

- (a) Brief legal assistance. The term "brief legal assistance" means individualized legal assistance provided in a single consultation by a designated organization to a covered individual in connection with a covered proceeding.
- (b) Coordinator. The term "coordinator" means the County Attorney.
- (c) Covered individual. The term "covered individual" means a tenant of a rental dwelling unit located in Albany County, including any tenant in a building operated by any housing authority located in Albany County, who is a respondent in a covered proceeding.

- (d) Covered proceeding. The term “covered proceeding” means any summary proceeding in housing court to evict a covered individual, including a summary proceeding to seek possession for the non-payment of rent or a holdover, or an administrative proceeding of any housing authority located in the Albany County for termination of tenancy.
- (e) Designated organization. The term “designated organization” means a not-for-profit organization or association that has the capacity to provide legal services and is designated by the coordinator pursuant to this chapter.
- (f) Full legal representation. The term “full legal representation” means ongoing legal representation provided by a designated organization to an income-eligible individual and all legal advice, advocacy, and assistance associated with such representation. Full legal representation includes, but is not limited to, the filing of a notice of appearance on behalf of the income-eligible individual in a covered proceeding.
- (g) Housing court. The term “housing court” means the housing part of any city, town, or village court located in Albany County.
- (h) Income-eligible individual. The term “income-eligible individual” means a covered individual whose annual gross household income is not in excess of 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated periodically in the federal register by the United States department of health and human services pursuant to subsection (2) of section 9902 of title 42 of the United States code.
- (i) Legal services. The term “legal services” means brief legal assistance or full legal representation.

SECTION 4. PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

- (a) Subject to appropriation, the coordinator shall establish a program to provide access to legal services for covered individuals in covered proceedings and shall ensure that, no later than January 1, 2022:
 - a. all covered individuals receive access to brief legal assistance no later than their first scheduled appearance in a covered proceeding, or as soon thereafter as is practicable; and
 - b. all income-eligible individuals receive access to full legal representation no later than their first scheduled appearance in a covered proceeding, or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

- (b) The coordinator shall estimate annually the expenditures required for each year of implementation of the programs described by this section. Beginning October 1, 2022 and no later than each October 1 thereafter, the coordinator shall publish a summary of any changes to such estimates for expenditures.
- (c) The coordinator shall annually review the performance of designated organizations.
- (d) The coordinator shall require each designated organization to identify the geographic areas for which such organization will provide legal services. For each such geographic area, the coordinator shall maintain a list of such organizations that provide such legal services.
- (e) Any legal services performed by a designated organization pursuant to this chapter shall not supplant, replace, or satisfy any obligations or responsibilities of such designated organization pursuant to any other program, agreement, or contract.
- (f) Nothing in this chapter or the administration or application thereof shall be construed to create a private right of action on the part of any person or entity against the city or any agency, official, or employee thereof.

SECTION 5. NOTICE AND OUTREACH

- (a) The Sheriff's Office shall provide notice of a covered individual's right to counsel in all eviction notices.
- (b) The coordinator shall set up a hotline to connect covered individuals with legal services and answer questions.

SECTION 6. PUBLIC HEARING

- (a) Following the establishment of the programs described by Section 4, the coordinator shall hold one public hearing each year to receive recommendations and feedback about such programs.
- (b) Such hearing shall be open to the public, and the coordinator shall provide notice of such hearing, no less than 30 days before such hearing, by:
 - a. posting in the housing court in English, Spanish, and any other languages determined by the coordinator;
 - b. posting in public offices of the Department of Social Services in English, Spanish, and any other languages determined by the coordinator; and

- c. outreach through local media and to each designated organization, local elected officials, the supervising judges of housing courts, and community-based organizations.
- (c) At such hearing, written and oral testimony may be provided.
- (d) The coordinator shall cause a transcript of such hearing to be produced and shall post such transcript online no later than 45 days after the meeting.

SECTION 7. REPORTING

No later than January 1, 2022 and annually by each January 1 thereafter, the coordinator shall submit to the county executive and the chairperson of the county legislature, and post online, a review of the program established pursuant to subdivision a of Section 4 and information regarding its implementation, to the extent such information is available, including, but not limited to:

- (a) the estimated number of covered individuals;
- (b) the number of individuals receiving legal services, disaggregated by the following characteristics of such individuals:
 - a. city, town, or village and postal code of residence;
 - b. age of head of household;
 - c. household size;
 - d. estimated length of tenancy;
 - e. approximate household income;
 - f. receipt of ongoing public assistance at the time such legal services were initiated;
 - g. tenancy in housing operated by any housing authority located in Albany County;
- (c) outcomes immediately following the provision of full legal representation, as applicable and available, including, but not limited to, the number of:
 - a. case dispositions allowing individuals to remain in their residence;
 - b. case dispositions requiring individuals to be displaced from their residence; and
 - c. instances where the attorney was discharged or withdrew.
- (d) non-payment and holdover petitions filed in housing court, warrants of eviction issued in housing court, and residential evictions conducted by county sheriff deputies, disaggregated by city or town.

SECTION 8. RULES

The coordinator may promulgate such rules as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this local law.

SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or other portion of this law is, for any reason, declared unconstitutional or invalid, in whole or in part, by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable, and such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this law, which remaining portions shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE

This local law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Referred to Law and Audit and Finance Committees – 9/13/21

LOCAL LAW NO. “M” FOR 2021

A LOCAL LAW CONCERNING THE CUTTING, REPLACING AND PRESERVATION OF FOREST LANDS BY COUNTY AUTHORITIES

Introduced: 11/8/21

By: Messrs. Perlee, Drake, Grimm, Langdon, Ms. Lockhart, Messrs. Mauriello, Tunny and Ms. Whalen

SECTION 1.

Legislative Intent.

Trees play an essential role in the survival of our planet. Trees mitigate temperature fluctuation and lower air temperatures. Trees prevent soil erosion, regulate the hydrology of soil and groundwater levels and absorb surface water, preventing it from flowing into built up and paved areas that contain pollutants that contaminate our waterways. Trees provide aesthetic comfort to urban landscapes and help delineate and buffer areas of current and future development. Through photosynthesis trees sequester harmful carbon dioxide and release life giving oxygen. Certain species which were once abundant in our County, such as the White Pine and Black Locust, are particularly effective at carbon sequestration. By regulating the exchange of energy and water between earth’s surface and atmosphere, trees are our planet’s primary defense in the battle against global warming. If the present rate of tree removal and death is not addressed, we will lose our last tree, and with it the planet, in less than 200 years' time. It is the intent of this law to create a replacement protocol related to the cutting of forested lands of one-half acres or more owned by Albany County and to create an Albany County Forest Preserve which shall serve to help ensure the preservation and enhancement of the total amount of forest land within Albany County.

SECTION 2.

Protocol related to the cutting of forest lands owned by Albany County.

No area of forested land of one-half acre or greater owned by the County shall be disturbed and developed unless:

(a) an inventory of trees to be disturbed and /or removed is made and filed with the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District (“ACSWCD”). The survey will conform with generally accepted standards of professional tree surveying and will comprehensively and accurately indicate the species and size of all trees 4” and greater diameter at breast height; and

(b) the ASCWCD will determine the value of the trees to be removed (“tree replacement value”) using the Basic Formula Method from the *Guide for Plant Appraisal 10th Edition* by the International Society of Arboriculture;

(c) the County Executive shall place, or cause to be placed an amount equal to two times the tree replacement value (“replacement payment”) into a special Forest Replacement Reserve Fund (“Reserve Fund”) established for the purpose of purchasing replacement forest property;

(d) upon confirmation of deposit of the replacement payment, the ASCWCD shall certify compliance with this section and issue an authorization to proceed with disturbance and/or removal.

SECTION 3.

Purposes of the Reserve Fund.

Funds deposited within The Reserve Fund shall be utilized exclusively for the following purposes:

(a) to purchase lands suitable for reforestation to be held in fee simple by the County (b) costs directly associated with planting said purchased lands with tree species known to possess high carbon dioxide sequestration capabilities;

SECTION 4.

Acquisition and Maintenance of Replacement Forest Property.

No more than one year following an authorization to disturb county forest lands, the County Executive shall identify and caused to be purchased real property suitable for replacement forest. Said property shall:

(a) be designated as Albany County Forest Preserve and shall be operated and maintained as natural open space in accordance with New York State General Municipal Law, Section 247;

(b) be no smaller in area than two times the area of the parcel containing the disturbed forest land it replaced;

(b) be suitable for reforestation;

(d) be located in an area of the County otherwise underserved by County facilities;

(e) be located where it can serve as a permanent green buffer to existing or proposed development;

(f) be contiguous or in proximate vicinity to lands designated as County Forest Preserve, if applicable;

(g) be forever kept as forest lands;

(h) be capable of use for nature education programs, nature trails and other County recreation purposes.

SECTION 5.

State Environmental Quality Review Act Compliance.

This County Legislature determines that the adoption of this Local Law constitutes a “Type II action” as said term is defined in the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), and that no further action with respect to same is required under SEQRA.

SECTION 6.

Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or other portion of this law is, for any reason, declared unconstitutional or invalid, in whole or in part, by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable, and such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this law, which remaining portions shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 7.

Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect upon filing with the New York Secretary of State.

Referred to Conservation, Sustainability and Green Initiatives and Law Committees – 11/8/21

RESOLUTION NO. 51

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. “K” FOR 2021 A
LOCAL LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF OPIOID
MEDICATIONS**

Introduced: 2/14/22

By Messrs. A. Joyce, Feeney and Domalewicz:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “K” for 2021, “A LOCAL LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF OPIOID MEDICATIONS” to be held remotely by the Albany County Legislature at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, with participation information to be made available on the Albany County website, and the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to cause notice of such hearing to be published containing the necessary information in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

Referred to Law and Health Committees – 2/14/22

RESOLUTION NO. 53

PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW NO. “M” FOR 2021 A LOCAL LAW CONCERNING THE CUTTING, REPLACING AND PRESERVATION OF FOREST LANDS BY COUNTY AUTHORITIES

Introduced: 2/14/22

By Mr. Perlee:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “M” for 2021, “A LOCAL LAW CONCERNING THE CUTTING, REPLACING AND PRESERVATION OF FOREST LANDS BY COUNTY AUTHORITIES” will be held remotely by the Albany County Legislature at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, with participation information to be made available on the Albany County website, and the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to cause notice of such hearing to be published containing the necessary information in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

Referred to Conservation, Sustainability, and Green Initiatives and Law Committees – 2/14/22

LOCAL LAW “B” FOR 2022

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 6 FOR 2017, TO EXEMPT THE COUNTY FROM WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SURCHARGES

Introduced:

By Ms. McLean Lane:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Legislative Intent

The purpose of this Local Law is to exempt Albany County from the payment of wireless communication surcharges on County owned or leased wireless telephones.

SECTION 2. Amendment

Section 2, of Local Law No. 6 for 2017, “A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK REPEALING THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SURCHARGE AUTHORIZED BY ARTICLE 6 OF THE COUNTY LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK SET FORTH IN ALBANY COUNTY LOCAL LAW 9 FOR 2009 AND IMPOSING THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS SURCHARGES PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF TAX LAW §186-g,” is amended by the addition of a new subdivision (d) as follows:

(d) Limitations. No wireless communication surcharge set forth in this Local Law shall be imposed upon any wireless telephone owned or leased by Albany County.

SECTION 3. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm, or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgement shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm, or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

SECTION 4. Effective Date

This law shall take effect immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State.

RESOLUTION NO. 107

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. “B” FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 6 FOR 2017, TO EXEMPT THE COUNTY FROM WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SURCHARGES

Introduced: 3/14/22

By Ms. McLean Lane:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “B” for 2022, “A Local Law of the County of Albany Amending Local Law No. 6 for 2017, to Exempt the County from Wireless Communication Surcharges” to be held remotely by the Albany County Legislature at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, with participation information to be made available on the Albany County website, and the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to cause notice of such hearing to be published containing the necessary information in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

Referred to Law and Public Safety Committees – 3/14/22

LOCAL LAW NO. "C" FOR 2022

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK REGULATING THE SALE OF USED CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

Introduced: 04/11/22

By Messrs. Cleary and A. Joyce:

BE IT ENACTED by the Albany County Legislature as follows:

Section 1. Title

This local law shall be known as "Regulating the Sale of Used Catalytic Converters."

Section 2. Legislative Intent

The Legislature hereby finds and determines that there has been an increase in thefts of used catalytic converters from vehicles in the County for the purpose of reselling the converters as scrap metal.

The Legislature further finds and determines that catalytic converter theft is a crime that is affecting an increasing number of families in the County. Accordingly, we must enact strategies and penalties to combat the problem.

The Legislature further finds and determines that requiring scrap metal recyclers doing business in Albany County to delay payment to sellers of used catalytic converters for at least fourteen (14) days after receipt of such devices will allow law enforcement additional time to investigate the theft of used catalytic converters and further discourage criminal conduct.

The Legislature also finds and determines that requiring scrap metal recyclers to maintain records of the purchase of used catalytic converters will assist law enforcement in the investigation of thefts of such devices.

Section 3. Purpose

The purpose of this Local Law to discourage the theft of catalytic converters from vehicles by requiring scrap metal recyclers doing business in Albany County to delay payments to sellers of used catalytic converters for at least fourteen (14) days after receipt and requiring scrap metal recyclers to maintain records of the purchase of such devices for three (3) years in order to aid law enforcement in the investigation of the theft of such devices.

Section 4. Definitions

As used in this local law, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

"Catalytic Converter" means a catalytic converter or other equipment or feature constituting an operational element of a motor vehicle's air pollution control system or mechanism required by federal or state law or by any rules or regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, as amended from time to time.

"Repair Shop" means a business enterprise that repairs vehicles and is certified by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles,

"Scrap Metal Recycler" means a vehicle dismantler, salvage pool, mobile car crusher, itinerant vehicle collector or scrap processor doing business in Albany County; but shall not include a dealer registered pursuant to section four hundred fifteen of the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law, an insurance company, a governmental agency, a person in whose name a certificate of title, registration or other ownership document has been issued for the vehicle from which the Used Catalytic Converter was removed, or a Repair Shop.

"Used Catalytic Converter" means a Catalytic Converter that was previously installed in a vehicle and which has been removed from such vehicle in whole or in part.

Section 5. Prohibition.

No Scrap Metal Recycler shall purchase or take possession of, including for purposes of recycling or rebuilding, a Used Catalytic Converter from any person or entity other than a dealer registered pursuant to section four hundred fifteen of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, an insurance company, a governmental agency, a person in whose name a certificate of title or other ownership document has been issued for the vehicle from which the catalytic converter was removed, a Repair Shop, or a person registered or certified or issued an identification number for the vehicle under the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Section 6. Maintenance of Records by Scrap Metal Recycler.

Each Scrap Metal Recycler who purchases or takes possession of, including for purposes of recycling or rebuilding, a Used Catalytic Converter shall record the purchase of the Used Catalytic Converter documenting the date of purchase, the name of seller, the seller's address or, in the case that the seller is an individual, the seller's residence address by street, number, city, village or town, the seller's driver's license number or information from a government issued photographic identification card, if any, or by such description as will reasonably locate the seller, or, if the seller is a Repair Shop, the Repair Shop's New York State Department of Motor Vehicles certification number. Such record shall be preserved by the Scrap Metal Recycler for

a period of three years from the date of receipt of the Used Catalytic Converter. Such records shall be available for inspection by any law enforcement authority with jurisdiction over the Scrap Metal Recycler.

Each Scrap Metal Recycler shall cause the record of purchase of the Used Catalytic Converter to be signed by the seller or his or her agent. It shall be unlawful for any seller or agent to refuse to furnish such information or to furnish incorrect or incomplete information. The Scrap Metal Recycler shall make and retain a copy of the government issued photographic identification card used to verify the identity of the person from whom the Used Catalytic Converter was purchased or obtained and shall retain the copy in a separate book, register or electronic archive for three (3) years from the date of purchase. Such records shall be available for inspection by any law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the Scrap Metal Recycler.

Section 7. Payments.

Payments by any Scrap Metal Recycler to a business, agency or private citizen who turns in a catalytic converter for scrap will be issued through check, with a copy of the check being held by the Scrap Metal Recycler for three years from the date of disbursement. Such records shall be available for inspection by any law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the Scrap Metal Recycler.

Section 8. Violations

(A) Any person that violates this Local Law shall:

- (1) be guilty of a class A misdemeanor, and
- (2) upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$300 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense, and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.

(B) This Local Law shall be enforced by any local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the Scrap Metal Recycler located within the County of Albany.

Section 9. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or chapter of this local law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such determination shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or chapter thereof directly involved in the proceeding in which such adjudication shall have been rendered. This local law shall not supersede any applicable state or federal laws or regulations with regard to the subject matters set forth herein.

Section 10. Effective Date and Applicability

This local law shall be effective ninety (90) days subsequent to filing in the Office of the Secretary of State and shall apply to all transactions occurring on or after the effective date of this local law.

Referred to Law and Public Safety Committees – 4/11/22

RESOLUTION NO. 138

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. “C” FOR 2022 A
LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK REGULATING
THE SALE OF USED CATALYTIC CONVERTERS**

Introduced: 4/11/22

By Mr. Cleary:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “C” for 2022, “A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK REGULATING THE SALE OF USED CATALYTIC CONVERTERS” to be held by the Albany County Legislature at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, with participation information to be made available on the Albany County website, and the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to cause notice of such hearing to be published containing the necessary information in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

Referred to Law and Public Safety Committees – 4/11/22

LOCAL LAW NO. “A” OF 2022

A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING THE SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY AND GREEN ENERGY ACT (“STAGE ACT”)

Introduced: 3/14/22

By Messrs. A. Joyce, Feeney, Efekoro, Fein, Reinhardt and Simpson:

BE IT ENACTED by the County Legislature of the County of Albany as follows:

(1) Title:

This Local law shall be known as the “Sustainable Technology and Green Energy Act”.

(2) Declaration of Legislative Findings & Intent:

In 2019, the State of New York enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), thereby creating one of the most ambitious and comprehensive climate and energy laws in the country. The CLCPA calls for nothing less than the decarbonization of the NYS economy and calls on each and every municipality in the state to collaboratively work to significantly increase the green energy business infrastructure in their municipalities to the greatest extent possible. New York has set aggressive goals through the CLCPA, and has established a target of reaching a point where no less than 70% of the state’s electricity consumption will be derived from renewable power generation by the year 2030.

The Albany County Legislature finds that local municipalities are uniquely situated to address the climate goals noted in the CLCPA through local economic development efforts, which prioritize the shift towards clean renewable energy systems and green business that will fuel our economy in the next century. Through collaborative efforts amongst neighboring municipalities, and local economic development agencies, Albany County intends to provide the resources through which business can find a partner in the fight for a healthier environment that brings long-term job investment and employment to our community.

The Albany County Legislature further finds that as our national, state, and local governments emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic the need for an economy driven by green economic development has become more apparent than ever. Only through sustainable investment in long-term clean energy businesses can we hope to stem the tide of decades of environmental devastation brought on by a much prolonged dependence on petroleum-based economies. The County Albany County Legislature determines that the County of Albany and its arms of municipal government can act as a promoter of this type of economic development and intends to commit significant resources to the development of green economic development projects across the County.

The intention of the Albany County Legislature is to establish a [Green Economic Development Plan] Sustainable Technology and Green Energy Plan, which will invigorate and diversify the green business industry in the County of Albany for years to come and contribute to significant economic development, job retention, and development.

(3) Definitions:

- (a) **“STAGE Plan”**: shall mean the [Green Economic Development Plan] Sustainable Technology and Green Energy Plan within Albany County that is authorized and established by Section 4 this Local Law.
- (b) **“Commissioner”**- shall mean the Commissioner of the Office of Management and Budget as established by Article 5, §§501 & 502 of the Albany County Charter.
- (c) **“Comptroller”**- shall mean the Albany County Comptroller as established by Article 4, §401 of the Albany County Charter.
- (d) **“County”**- shall mean the County of Albany, NY.
- (e) **“County Executive”**- shall mean the Albany County Executive as established by Article 3, §§ 301 & 302 of the Albany County Charter.
- (f) **“Director”**- shall mean the Director of the Albany County Department of Economic Development, Conservation, and Planning as established by Article 11, §§1101 & 1102 of the Albany County Charter.
- (g) **“Economic development project”**- shall mean a project undertaken by local development agencies (as defined herein) which is for the purpose of improvement of economic development, job retention, job growth, or business growth within the County.
- (h) **“Green Business”**- shall mean any entity that is a for-profit business that produces goods or provides services that benefit the environment, conserve natural resources, or reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Green businesses include, but are not limited to, corporations that manufacture, produce, build, engineer, service, supply, and/or distribute any product which produces clean energy sources or reduces emissions in other sectors of the economy, such as building or transportation, in order to meet local, state, and federal sustainability goals and contribute demonstrably to the green business footprint in the County.
- (i) **“Financial Assistance”**- shall mean assistance that is provided to the covered entity for the improvement or development of real property,

economic development, job retention and growth, or other similar purposes that is provided either (i) directly by the County, or (ii) indirectly by local economic development agencies. Financial assistance as defined in this section shall include, but not be limited to: grants, bonds, financing, real property tax abatements or exemptions (including, but not limited to, abatements or exemptions from real property taxes, mortgage recording taxes, sales and uses taxes, or payments in lieu of taxes).

- (j) **“Local Economic Development Agencies”**- shall mean an entity that has been constituted and/or established to provide or administer economic development benefits on behalf of the County including, but not limited to : (i) a not-for profit local development corporation established pursuant Section 1411 of the New York State Not-For Profit Corporation Law; (ii) an industrial development agency established pursuant to Sections 856 and/or 903-b of the New York State General Municipal Law; or (iii) any urban development corporation as defined by the New York State Urban Development Corporation Act and/or a public benefit corporation as authorized by the laws of New York. [authorized to be established pursuant to NYS Law which is a state entity.]

(4) Green Economic Development Plan Established:

- (a) The Albany County Legislature hereby establishes an economic development program within Albany County, which shall hereinafter be known as the Sustainable Technology and Green Energy Plan (the “STAGE Plan”). The STAGE Plan, is intended to contribute to the revitalization of the [Albany] County economy, in part, through the support and development of green businesses which bring innovation in the green energy sector and work to diversify our local green business community in contribution to the goals set forth in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) which was adopted by the New York State Legislature in 2019.
- (b) The Director is hereby [empowered] authorized to exercise all powers granted to them pursuant to Article 11, §§1101 &1102 of the Albany County Charter to establish and develop the STAGE Plan and encourage related green business economic development priorities as established by this local law. The Director is encouraged to work collaboratively with the County Executive, Comptroller, Commissioner in the development of the [an economic development Plan] STAGE Plan which prioritizes the retention and attraction of green business in the County.
- (c) Included in the STAGE Plan shall be primary goals, including but not limited to:

- (i) the fostering of, expansion towards, and development of green businesses in the County of Albany;
 - (ii) the development and promulgation of rules and regulations which are geared towards the encouragement of green business the County of Albany;
 - (iii) the development of inter-municipal agreements as well as agreements with local development agencies for the purpose of attracting green business to the County of Albany and providing financial assistance thereto; and
 - (iv) the prioritization of economic development projects which increase the amount of green business, and related employment opportunities created by each in the County of Albany.
- (d) In furtherance of establishing a robust economy with a thriving green energy sector, the Director is further authorized to take any all steps necessary and required to collaborate with local development agencies which are already established and operating in the County to support local economic development goals noted above. This support includes, but in not limited to financial assistance to green business, and economic development projects as defined by this l[L]ocal l[L]aw.
- (e) No later than January 1, 2023, the Director shall promulgate and implement rules and regulations as appropriate and authorized by this section that are necessary required to establish the STAGE Plan. The Director is authorized to work in collaboration and consultation with the County Executive, Comptroller, Commissioner, the Legislature, the Albany County Attorney, and their representatives, as deemed necessary and appropriate to implement the purposes of this local law. The Albany County Legislature shall approve the final STAGE Plan when it is submitted by the Director.
- (f) The Comptroller and/ or the Albany County Legislature may inspect the records and documents related to the STAGE Plan upon written request to the Director and/or the County Executive. Once a properly submitted written request is filed, the Director and/or County Executive must respond within thirty (30) business days with records which respond to a request related to the STAGE Plan.

(5) Funding and Annual Budgetary Appropriation:

- (a) On an annual basis, the Director shall, in conjunction with the Commissioner, incorporate into the County's [of Albany's] yearly budget proposal a fund or appropriation sufficient to support all purposes of this

law including, but not limited to, the necessary community outreach to the green business, to provide for financial assistance as authorized by this law, and to encourage economic development projects prioritized by this local law.

- (b) The Commissioner of Management and Budget is further authorized pursuant to this local law, and consistent with Article 6 of the Albany County Charter and relevant New York State law, to establish any and all necessary funds within each annual County budget proposal which funds all programs and goals as outlined in this local law.

(6) SEQRA Determination:

- (a) The Albany County Legislature hereby determines that the adoption of this Local Law constitutes a “Type II action” as defined in the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), and that no further action with respect to the same is required under SEQRA.

(7) Severability:

- (a) If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgement shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgement is rendered.

(8) Effective Date:

- (a) This Local Law shall be effective upon filing with the NYS Secretary of State.

Referred to Conservation, Sustainability, and Green Initiatives and Law Committees – 3/14/22

LOCAL LAW “B” FOR 2022

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 6 FOR 2017, TO EXEMPT THE COUNTY FROM WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SURCHARGES

Introduced: 3/14/22

By Ms. McLean Lane:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Legislative Intent

The purpose of this Local Law is to exempt Albany County from the payment of wireless communication surcharges on County owned or leased wireless telephones.

SECTION 2. Amendment

Section 2, of Local Law No. 6 for 2017, “A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK REPEALING THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SURCHARGE AUTHORIZED BY ARTICLE 6 OF THE COUNTY LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK SET FORTH IN ALBANY COUNTY LOCAL LAW 9 FOR 2009 AND IMPOSING THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS SURCHARGES PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF TAX LAW §186-g,” is amended by the addition of a new subdivision (d) as follows:

(d) Limitations. No wireless communication surcharge set forth in this Local Law shall be imposed upon any wireless telephone owned or leased by Albany County.

SECTION 3. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm, or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgement shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm, or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

SECTION 4. Effective Date

This law shall take effect immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State.

Referred to Law and Public Safety Committees – 3/14/22

LOCAL LAW NO. "C" FOR 2022

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK REGULATING THE SALE OF USED CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

Introduced: 04/11/22

By Messrs. Cleary and A. Joyce:

BE IT ENACTED by the Albany County Legislature as follows:

Section 1. Title

This local law shall be known as "Regulating the Sale of Used Catalytic Converters."

Section 2. Legislative Intent

The Legislature hereby finds and determines that there has been an increase in thefts of used catalytic converters from vehicles in the County for the purpose of reselling the converters as scrap metal.

The Legislature further finds and determines that catalytic converter theft is a crime that is affecting an increasing number of families in the County. Accordingly, we must enact strategies and penalties to combat the problem.

The Legislature further finds and determines that requiring scrap metal recyclers doing business in Albany County to delay payment to sellers of used catalytic converters for at least fourteen (14) days after receipt of such devices will allow law enforcement additional time to investigate the theft of used catalytic converters and further discourage criminal conduct.

The Legislature also finds and determines that requiring scrap metal recyclers to maintain records of the purchase of used catalytic converters will assist law enforcement in the investigation of thefts of such devices.

Section 3. Purpose

The purpose of this Local Law to discourage the theft of catalytic converters from vehicles by requiring scrap metal recyclers doing business in Albany County to delay payments to sellers of used catalytic converters for at least fourteen (14) days after receipt and requiring scrap metal recyclers to maintain records of the purchase of such devices for three (3) years in order to aid law enforcement in the investigation of the theft of such devices.

Section 4. Definitions

As used in this local law, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

"Catalytic Converter" means a catalytic converter or other equipment or feature constituting an operational element of a motor vehicle's air pollution control system or mechanism required by federal or state law or by any rules or regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, as amended from time to time.

"Repair Shop" means a business enterprise that repairs vehicles and is certified by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles,

"Scrap Metal Recycler" means a vehicle dismantler, salvage pool, mobile car crusher, itinerant vehicle collector or scrap processor doing business in Albany County; but shall not include a dealer registered pursuant to section four hundred fifteen of the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law, an insurance company, a governmental agency, a person in whose name a certificate of title, registration or other ownership document has been issued for the vehicle from which the Used Catalytic Converter was removed, or a Repair Shop.

"Used Catalytic Converter" means a Catalytic Converter that was previously installed in a vehicle and which has been removed from such vehicle in whole or in part.

Section 5. Prohibition.

No Scrap Metal Recycler shall purchase or take possession of, including for purposes of recycling or rebuilding, a Used Catalytic Converter from any person or entity other than a dealer registered pursuant to section four hundred fifteen of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, an insurance company, a governmental agency, a person in whose name a certificate of title or other ownership document has been issued for the vehicle from which the catalytic converter was removed, a Repair Shop, or a person registered or certified or issued an identification number for the vehicle under the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Section 6. Maintenance of Records by Scrap Metal Recycler.

Each Scrap Metal Recycler who purchases or takes possession of, including for purposes of recycling or rebuilding, a Used Catalytic Converter shall record the purchase of the Used Catalytic Converter documenting the date of purchase, the name of seller, the seller's address or, in the case that the seller is an individual, the seller's residence address by street, number, city, village or town, the seller's driver's license number or information from a government issued photographic identification card, if any, or by such description as will reasonably locate the seller, or, if the seller is a Repair Shop, the Repair Shop's New York State Department of Motor Vehicles certification number. Such record shall be preserved by the Scrap Metal Recycler for

a period of three years from the date of receipt of the Used Catalytic Converter. Such records shall be available for inspection by any law enforcement authority with jurisdiction over the Scrap Metal Recycler.

Each Scrap Metal Recycler shall cause the record of purchase of the Used Catalytic Converter to be signed by the seller or his or her agent. It shall be unlawful for any seller or agent to refuse to furnish such information or to furnish incorrect or incomplete information. The Scrap Metal Recycler shall make and retain a copy of the government issued photographic identification card used to verify the identity of the person from whom the Used Catalytic Converter was purchased or obtained and shall retain the copy in a separate book, register or electronic archive for three (3) years from the date of purchase. Such records shall be available for inspection by any law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the Scrap Metal Recycler.

Section 7. Payments.

Payments by any Scrap Metal Recycler to a business, agency or private citizen who turns in a catalytic converter for scrap will be issued through check, with a copy of the check being held by the Scrap Metal Recycler for three years from the date of disbursement. Such records shall be available for inspection by any law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the Scrap Metal Recycler.

Section 8. Violations

(A) Any person that violates this Local Law shall:

- (1) be guilty of a class A misdemeanor, and
- (2) upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$300 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense, and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.

(B) This Local Law shall be enforced by any local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the Scrap Metal Recycler located within the County of Albany.

Section 9. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or chapter of this local law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such determination shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or chapter thereof directly involved in the proceeding in which such adjudication shall have been rendered. This local law shall not supersede any applicable state or federal laws or regulations with regard to the subject matters set forth herein.

Section 10. Effective Date and Applicability

This local law shall be effective ninety (90) days subsequent to filing in the Office of the Secretary of State and shall apply to all transactions occurring on or after the effective date of this local law.

Referred to Law and Public Safety Committees – 4/11/22

LOCAL LAW NO. “D” FOR 2022

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK IN RELATION TO THE PROMOTION OF FELINE ADOPTION

Introduced: 4/11/22

By Messrs. A. Joyce, Cleary and Ms. Plotsky:

BE IT ENACTED by the Albany County Legislature as follows:

Section 1. Title

This local law shall be known as “Lulu’s Law: For the Promotion of Feline Adoption.”

Section 2. Legislative Intent

The Legislature hereby finds and determines that animal shelters of Albany County have large populations of cats seeking adoption, and that the longer a cat is sheltered in such facilities without being adopted, the greater the chance of disease or illnesses being spread. Moreover, there is significant expense related to the sheltering of cats in such facilities.

The Legislature further finds and determines that in December 2018, the State Legislature amended the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Section 374, which previously required such shelters to retain cats for at least five (5) days before they could be adopted. The amendments to Section 374 allow for adoptions after three (3) days for any cat whose owner cannot be identified by collar, tag, microchip, tattoo or other identifying mark, provided that a local law is adopted to “opt in” to the three (3) day requirement.

Section 3. Feline Adoption or Transfer to a Rescue Organization After Three (3) Days.

The Albany County Legislature hereby establishes that a cat may be placed for adoption or transfer to a rescue organization after three (3) days by a duly incorporated humane society, a duly incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or any animal shelter maintained by or under contract or agreement with any city, town or village in Albany County. This also provides that said cat can be made available solely for the purposes of adoption or transfer to a rescue organization and released to an adoptive owner or a rescue organization following an examination by a duly-licensed veterinarian, the details of which shall be provided to the adoptive owner or rescue organization.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or chapter of this local law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such determination shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or chapter thereof directly involved in the proceeding in which such adjudication shall have been rendered. This local law shall not supersede any applicable state or federal laws or regulations with regard to the subject matters set forth herein.

Section 5. Effective Date and Applicability

This local law shall be immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

Referred to Law Committee – 4/11/22

RESOLUTION NO. 184

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. “E” FOR 2022 A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 FOR 2013, ENTITLED "AN OMNIBUS HUMAN RIGHTS LAW FOR ALBANY COUNTY”

Introduced: 5/9/22

By Ms. McLaughlin:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “E” for 2022, “A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 FOR 2013, ENTITLED "AN OMNIBUS HUMAN RIGHTS LAW FOR ALBANY COUNTY”” to be held by the Albany County Legislature at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, with participation information to be made available on the Albany County website, and the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to cause notice of such hearing to be published containing the necessary information in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

LOCAL LAW “E” FOR 2022

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 FOR 2013, ENTITLED "AN OMNIBUS HUMAN RIGHTS LAW FOR ALBANY COUNTY"

Introduced: 5/9/22

By Mss. McLaughlin, Plotsky and Mr. A. Joyce:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Legislative Intent

The purpose of this Local Law is to prevent discrimination in employment by requiring the disclosure of the minimum and maximum salary or wage at the time any position for hire in Albany County is solicited.

In 2017, this honorable body adopted rules prohibiting employers from requiring job applicants to provide prior or current salary information before an offer of employment is made.

The County of Albany continues to be dedicated to protecting the rights of its residents and eliminating discrimination and bias in the workplace.

This Legislature hereby finds and determines that withholding salary information during the employment solicitation process places employees at a disadvantage and can lead to discriminatory pay inequality.

Therefore, the purpose of this law is to amend the Albany County Omnibus Human Rights Law (Local Law No. 1 for 2013, as amended) to require employers to provide the minimum and maximum salary or hourly wage for any position being solicited for employment.

SECTION 2. Prohibitions

Section 7, subsection 1 (i) of Local Law No. 1 for 2013, “An Omnibus Human Rights Law for Albany County,” as amended, is further amended by the addition of a new subdivision (4) as follows:

(4) Advertise a job, promotion, or transfer opportunity without stating the minimum and maximum salary or hourly wage for such position in such advertisement. In stating the minimum and maximum salary or hourly wage for a position, the range may extend from the lowest to the highest salary the employer in good faith believes at the time of the posting it

would pay for the advertised job, promotion, or transfer opportunity. This subdivision does not apply to a job advertisement for temporary employment at a temporary help firm as such term is defined by subdivision 5 of section 916 of article 31 of the New York State Labor Law.

SECTION 3. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm, or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgement shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm, or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

SECTION 4. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect 90 days after enactment.