

County of Albany

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



Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, June 29, 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. "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
4. 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
5. 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
6. 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"
7. 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
8. LOCAL LAW NO. "C" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK REGULATING THE SALE OF USED CATALYTIC CONVERTERS
9. 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"

CURRENT BUSINESS:

10. PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW NO. "F" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY REQUIRING ALL WEAPON AND/OR FIREARM DEALERS TO POST DISCLOSURES REGARDING SAFETY RISKS FROM FIREARMS
11. PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW NO. "G" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR OPEN MEETINGS OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY TO PROVIDE FOR MEMBER VIDEOCONFERENCING IN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES
12. LOCAL LAW NO. "F" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY REQUIRING ALL WEAPON AND/OR FIREARM DEALERS TO POST DISCLOSURES REGARDING SAFETY RISKS FROM FIREARMS
13. LOCAL LAW NO. "G" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR OPEN MEETINGS OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY TO PROVIDE FOR MEMBER VIDEOCONFERENCING IN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES

County of Albany

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

6:00 PM

Held Remotely

Law Committee

PREVIOUS BUSINESS:

Present: Chairperson Victoria Plotsky, Vice Chair Joanne Cunningham, Paul J. Burgdorf, Dennis A. Feeney, Jeffrey D. Kuhn, David B. Mayo, Bill L. Ricard and Jennifer A. Whalen

Excused: Matthew T. Peter

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. "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 withdrawn at the request of the Sponsor.

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

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 withdrawn 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 withdrawn 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. 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.

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

A motion was made to move this Local Law forward with a positive recommendation. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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

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

12. 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.

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

A motion was made to move this Local Law forward with a positive recommendation. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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"**

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

- 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"**

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

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.

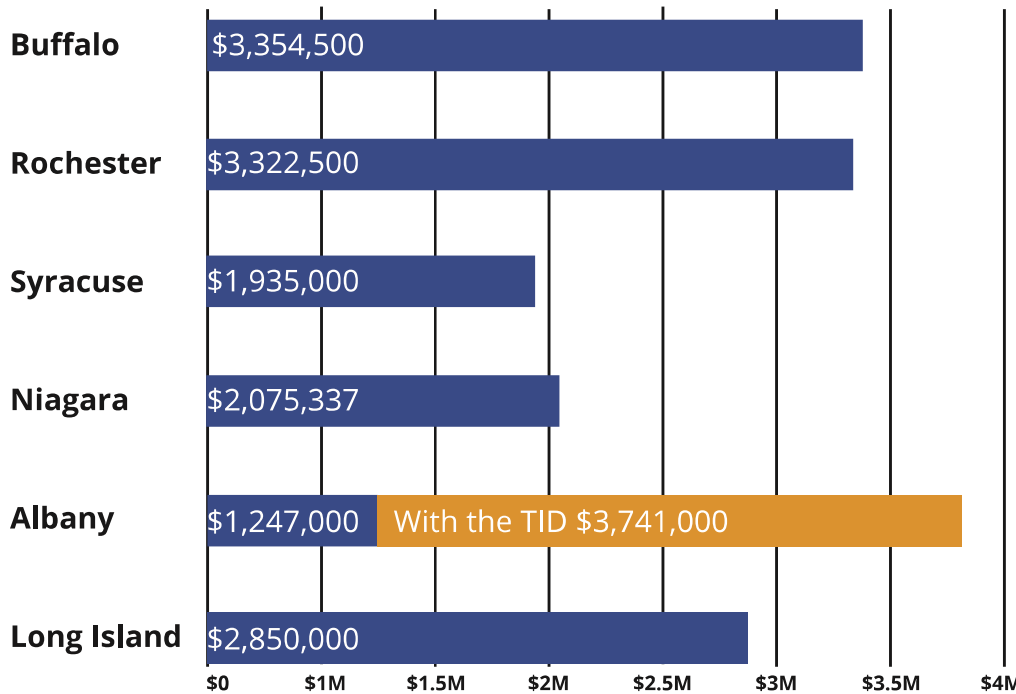
Albany County

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

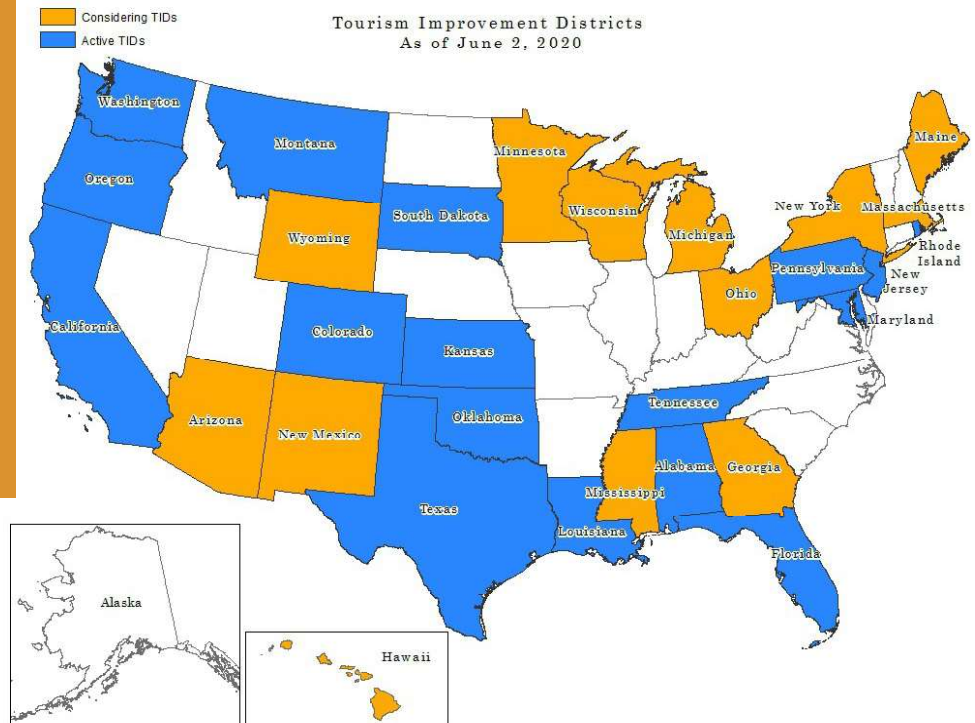
With the lack of marketing funds and focus, we have lost these events totaling over 22,000 room nights and \$17 million in economic impact to Albany County and local hotels. These hotels rely on consistent and creative marketing to:

- 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. “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 “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

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 “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 “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.

LOCAL LAW “F” FOR 2022

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY REQUIRING ALL WEAPON AND/OR FIREARM DEALERS TO POST DISCLOSURES REGARDING SAFETY RISKS FROM FIREARMS

Introduced: 6/13/22

By Messrs. Reidy, Feeney, A. Joyce, Beston, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Cleary, Efekoro, Fein, Kuhn, Ms. Lekakis, Messrs. Mayo, Miller, Ms. Plotsky, Messrs. Reinhardt, Ricard, Ward and Ms. Willingham:

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

SECTION 1. Title.

This Local Law shall be known as the “Albany County Commitment to Ensuring a Safe Society (ACCESS) Law.”

SECTION 2. Legislative Intent.

The purpose of this Local Law is to provide for and promote the health, safety and welfare of the general public by specifically informing buyers and potential buyers of weapons or firearms in Albany County of the dangers of owning a weapon or firearm.

This Legislature determines that gun violence is a uniquely American problem, which continues to worsen. The United States accounts for just 4% of the world’s population, but 35% of global firearm suicides and 9% of global firearm homicides. America has the weakest firearm laws and the most firearms — 393 million, more than this country’s population — of any comparable nation. Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed in a firearm homicide than people in other high-income countries.

Within the last ten years, the firearm mortality rate has risen nearly 18%, with an average of 39,000 Americans dying from firearm violence each year from 2015 to 2019. Over 45,000 Americans died from firearm violence in 2020 alone. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that an average of 483 deaths per year are from unintentional shootings. The average number of non-fatal shooting injuries is 76,127 each year.

Studies have shown that, when a firearm is easily accessible, the risk of homicide, suicide and unintentional shootings rises dramatically. Indeed, access to a firearm triples the risk of suicide. More than 6,000 veterans die by suicide each year, with more than two thirds of those deaths involving firearms. Domestic violence victims

are five times more likely to be killed when their abuser has access to a firearm. Firearms are the leading cause of death for children under the age of 18.

Moreover, the database from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention demonstrates that firearm homicides and assaults disproportionately impact underserved communities of color. Black men make up 52% of all firearm homicide victims in the United States, despite comprising less than 6% of the population.

This Legislature finds that the existence of a weapon or firearm in a home can lead to accidental discharge causing the unintended death of a child or other household members, preventable suicide, and death during a domestic dispute. Requiring weapon and firearm dealers to post warning notices delineating the risks of weapons or firearms ownership will provide important information to customers who can then make safer buying choices.

Albany County is dedicated to protecting its residents. Accordingly, this law is intended to require all weapon or firearms dealers within Albany County to post and distribute conspicuous notices containing disclosures of the safety risks of weapons and firearms.

SECTION 3. Definitions.

a. Dealer. Any person, firm, partnership, corporation or company who engages in the business of purchasing, selling, keeping for sale, loaning, leasing, or in any manner disposing of including but not limited to: any rifle, shotgun, firearm, machine gun or assault weapon including a semiautomatic rifle, shotgun, or firearm, as those terms are defined in Section 265.00 of the New York State Penal Law;

b. Firearm. As stated in New York State Penal Law Section 265, (a) Any pistol or revolver; or (b) a shotgun having one or more barrels less than eighteen inches in length; or (c) a rifle having one or more barrels less than sixteen inches in length; or (d) any weapon made from a shotgun or rifle whether by alteration, modification, or otherwise if such weapon as altered, modified, or otherwise has an overall length of less than twenty-six inches; or (e) an assault weapon. The term "Firearm" shall not include an antique and inoperable firearm;

c. Weapon. Any rifle, shotgun, firearm, machine gun or assault weapon including a semiautomatic rifle, shotgun, firearm, as those terms are defined in Section 265.00 of the New York State Penal Law;

d. Site. The facility where any sale and/or transfer of weapons or firearms is conducted.

SECTION 4. Disclosure Notice.

a. Every Dealer located in Albany County engaged in the retail business of selling weapons or firearms shall not sell, deliver, transfer or otherwise dispose of any weapon or firearm to any person unless a notice is posted in the Site where such weapons or firearms are displayed or delivered to the purchaser, at the entrance to the Site and in at least one additional area where sales occur, conspicuously stating, in no smaller than 26-point type and on paper at least 8 and 1/2 inches by 11 inches in bold print the following warning:

WARNING

ACCESS TO [THE PRESENCE OF] A WEAPON OR FIREARM IN THE HOME SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES THE RISK OF SUICIDE, [HOMICIDE,] DEATH DURING DOMESTIC DISPUTES, AND/OR UNINTENTIONAL DEATHS TO CHILDREN, HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS AND OTHERS. IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS EXPERIENCING DISTRESS AND/OR DEPRESSION, CALL THE MOBILE CRISIS TEAM AT (518) 549-6500 or THE NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE AT (800) 273-8255.

a. Every Dealer located in Albany County engaged in the retail business of selling weapons or firearms shall not sell, deliver, transfer or otherwise dispose of any weapon or firearm to any person unless it distributes a notice to the purchaser at the time of each individual sale of a weapon or firearm, conspicuously stating, in no smaller than 26-point type and on paper at least 8 and 1/2 inches by 11 inches in bold print the following warning:

WARNING

ACCESS TO [THE PRESENCE OF] A WEAPON OR FIREARM IN THE HOME SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES THE RISK OF SUICIDE, [HOMICIDE,] DEATH DURING DOMESTIC DISPUTES, AND/OR UNINTENTIONAL DEATHS TO CHILDREN, HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS AND OTHERS. IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS EXPERIENCING DISTRESS AND/OR DEPRESSION, CALL THE MOBILE CRISIS TEAM AT (518) 549-6500 or THE NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE AT (800) 273-8255.

c. Upon the issuance of a license, the County Clerk shall provide the licensee a written copy of a warning notice conspicuously stating in no smaller than 26-point type and on paper at least 8 and 1/2 inches by 11 inches in bold print the following warning:

WARNING

ACCESS TO [THE PRESENCE OF] A WEAPON OR FIREARM IN THE HOME SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES THE RISK OF SUICIDE, [HOMICIDE,] DEATH DURING DOMESTIC DISPUTES, AND/OR UNINTENTIONAL DEATHS TO CHILDREN, HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS AND OTHERS. IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS EXPERIENCING DISTRESS AND/OR DEPRESSION, CALL THE MOBILE CRISIS TEAM AT (518) 549-6500 or THE NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE AT (800) 273-8255.

d. Albany County and its agencies, officers, and/or employees shall not be liable to any party by reason of any injury or damage resulting from the failure of any Dealer to comply with this Chapter or in consequence of any act or omission in connection with the implementation or enforcement of this Chapter.

SECTION 5. Violations.

A. Any infraction of this Chapter, [or any rule promulgated thereunder,] shall be a violation punishable by imprisonment of not more than fifteen days or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both. Each day that a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.

B. The provisions of this Chapter shall be enforced within each municipality by the applicable local police force, including town, city and village police departments and the Albany County Sheriff's Office, which officers are authorized to issue appearance tickets for any violation of this Chapter. Appearance tickets shall be served personally.

SECTION 6. 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 7. Effective Date

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

RESOLUTION NO. 227

PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW NO. “F” FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY REQUIRING ALL WEAPON AND/OR FIREARM DEALERS TO POST DISCLOSURES REGARDING SAFETY RISKS FROM FIREARMS

Introduced: 6/13/22

By Messrs. Reidy, Feeney, Beston, Bruschi, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Cleary, Commisso, Ms. Cunningham, Messrs. Domalewicz, Efekoro, Ethier, Fein, R. Joyce, Kuhn, Mayo, Ms. McLaughlin, Messrs. Miller, O’Brien, Peter, Ms. Plotsky, Messrs. Reidy, Reinhardt, Ricard, Simpson, Smith, Ward, and Ms. Willingham:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “F” for 2022, “A Local Law of the County of Albany Requiring All Weapon and/or Firearm Dealers to Post Disclosures Regarding Safety Risks from Firearms” will be held remotely by the Albany County Legislature at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 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 – 6/13/22

LOCAL LAW NO. “G” FOR 2022

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR OPEN MEETINGS OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY TO PROVIDE FOR MEMBER VIDEOCONFERENCING IN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES

Introduction: 6/13/22

By: Mr. A. Joyce

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

Section 1. Legislative Intent and Purpose

All County bodies with final decision-making authority must comply with the New York Open Meetings Law. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, and pursuant to the various emergency executive orders of the Governor of the State of New York, the County Legislature and various County public bodies have been authorized to and have met remotely with great success.

In March 2022, the State Legislature enacted updates to the Open Meetings Law to allow for videoconferencing in non-state-emergency situations in limited circumstances. These updates authorize members of a public body who experience an “extraordinary circumstance” to attend meetings by videoconference: (i) as long as a quorum of the members attend in-person at one or more locations open to the public; (ii) as long as the member can be seen, heard, and identified while the open portion of the meeting is being conducted; and (iii) as otherwise permitted under State law. A member who participates from a remote location that is not open to in-person physical attendance by the public does not count toward a quorum of the public body, but may participate and vote if there is a quorum of members at the physical location(s) open to the public.

Under State law, advisory bodies are not “public bodies” as they do not have decision-making authority, and thus they do not need to comply with the requirements of the Open Meetings Law. There is tremendous value in ensuring that County advisory body meetings are open to the public and, as such, this Legislature finds that it is appropriate to continue to permit County advisory boards with no final decision-making authority to meet via videoconferencing, to encourage maximum public attendance and participation.

This Local Law will establish the definitions and framework for all decision-making bodies of Albany County, and these bodies shall incorporate changes into their respective rules or bylaws language that are consistent with this Local Law. For this

purpose alone, the Legislature waives any requirements that bylaws or rules of separate County public bodies be separately approved by the Legislature, insofar as such amendments are not inconsistent with or beyond the scope of this Local Law, and such changes shall be deemed to meet the requirements when submitted to the Legislature.

Because there are many County decision-making bodies which do not have the ability to conduct the type of public hearing necessary here, the Legislature will conduct a public hearing on behalf of all County decision-making bodies.

Section 2. Definitions

As contained in this Local Law, these terms shall have meanings as indicated herein:

“Alternate Presiding Officer” shall be defined as such individual who has been selected or appointed by a public body to make determinations on the applicability of requests for videoconferencing in instances when the Presiding Officer is absent or unavailable.

“Caregiving responsibilities” shall be defined as the provision of care to individuals suffering from conditions that often require the assistance of others, including but not limited to: physical decline; chronic conditions; visual and hearing impairments; sudden medical events; developmental disabilities; mental health or psychiatric disorders; and addiction. Additionally, such term shall also include provision of services for children or adults who are otherwise in need of assistance.

“Disability” shall be defined as (a) a physical, mental or medical impairment which prevents the exercise of a normal bodily function or is demonstrable by medically accepted clinical or laboratory diagnostic techniques or (b) a record of such an impairment or (c) a condition regarded by others as such an impairment.

“Executive session” shall have the meaning as defined as in section 105 of the Public Officers Law.

“Extraordinary circumstances” shall be defined as any significant or unexpected factor or event, which precludes a member's physical attendance at a meeting, including disability, illness, or caregiving responsibilities. This term shall not include pre-planned events which are not medical in nature, or employment or professional responsibilities.

“Illness” shall be defined as a disease or period of sickness affecting the body or mind.

“Meeting” shall be defined as the official convening of a public body for the purpose of conducting public business, including the use of videoconferencing for attendance and participation by members of the public body.

“Member” shall be defined as any individual with the ability to cast a vote or who is counted towards a quorum for a public body.

“Presiding Officer” shall be defined as the individual who has been selected or appointed by a public body to preside over its meetings – usually the Chairperson – with authority to facilitate the business of the public body and address issues of order and decorum, who has authority pursuant to this Local Law to review, evaluate, and determine requests for videoconferencing attendance by members.

“Public body” shall be defined as any entity, for which a quorum is required in order to conduct public business and which consists of two or more members, performing a governmental function for the County. Pursuant to State law, this does not include any body which is advisory or does not perform a governmental function.

“Quorum” shall be defined as a majority of members of the body, which is the number needed to take formal action on a matter of public business.

“Videoconferencing” shall be defined as the use of technology allowing for a member of a public body to remotely attend and participate in a meeting while in a separate location from the quorum of members physically present for said meeting, provided that such videoconferencing member can be heard, seen and identified while the meeting is being conducted by the members of the public body and the public.

Section 3. Requiring Bylaws/Rules Changes by All County Public Bodies.

This Local Law establishes rules regarding member participation via videoconferencing for all County public bodies. Each County public body must adopt changes to its bylaws or rules consistent with this Local Law. It shall be the responsibility of each public body to determine the form and manner in which its bylaws or rules are amended.

All County public bodies shall provide copies of their revised bylaws or rules to the Legislature, and any other such entities as required by law. This Legislature hereby deems as accepted and approved any amendments to bylaws or rules that would otherwise require legislative approval, insofar as such amendments are not inconsistent with or beyond the scope of this Local Law, provided that such approval is not inconsistent with any other provisions of law.

Section 4. Use and Requirements of Videoconferencing

A. The use of videoconferencing by County public bodies is authorized when the following criteria are met:

1. The County Legislature has adopted this Local Law, following a public hearing;
2. The public body has amended its bylaws or rules consistent with this Local Law to authorize the use of videoconferencing;
3. The public body has established written procedures governing member and public attendance consistent with this Local Law, and such written procedures are conspicuously posted on the County website;
4. The public body has a minimum number of members physically present to fulfill the public body's quorum requirement in physical location(s) where the public can attend;
5. Extraordinary circumstances exist which would prevent a member from meeting in the physical location(s) where a quorum of members are jointly present;
6. Said member is physically present within the County of Albany;
7. Said member has provided notice, justification, and documentation (where applicable) to the extent possible for their absence to the Presiding Officer and/or Alternate Presiding Officer of the public body, as far in advance as practicable. For purposes of the County Legislature, such notice shall be provided to the Clerk of the Legislature and the Chairperson of the Legislature. All other public bodies of the County of Albany shall adopt policies related to who is to receive such notice.
8. Said absence has been approved by the Presiding Officer, or the Alternate Presiding Officer, in situations where the Presiding Officer is absent or otherwise unable to attend in person, after a determination that extraordinary circumstances exist.
9. Where documentation supporting a request to videoconference has been provided, the Presiding Officer may publicly confirm receipt of such documentation, but may not share the contents of such documentation outside of the public body.

B. When videoconferencing is used, the following are required:

1. Except in the case of executive sessions, the public body shall ensure that remote members of the public body can be heard, seen and identified at all times during the meeting;
2. Minutes of such meetings shall include which members participated remotely and shall be available to the public;
3. Public notice(s) for the meeting shall inform the public that videoconferencing will be used, where the public can view and/or participate

- in such meeting, where required documents and records will be posted or available, and identify the physical location(s) for the meeting where the public can attend;
4. The meeting shall be recorded and such recordings posted or linked on the Albany County website within five business days following the meeting, shall remain so available for a minimum of five years thereafter, and shall be transcribed upon request;
 5. Members of the public must have the opportunity to attend the meeting via videoconferencing and participate where public comment or participation is authorized, in real-time, at all times being permitted the same public participation or testimony as in-person participation or testimony.

Section 5. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

Open meetings of any public body that are broadcast or use videoconferencing shall utilize technology to permit access by members of the public with disabilities consistent with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended, and corresponding guidelines. For the purposes of this Section, “disability” shall have the meaning defined in Executive Law Section 292.

Section 6. Public Hearing Requirement

The Albany County Legislature will hold a public hearing prior to the adoption of this Local Law, and said public hearing shall satisfy the requirement that all County public bodies hold a public hearing regarding videoconferencing rules.

Section 7. State of Emergency Provisions

The in-person participation requirements of the Public Officers Law shall not apply during a state disaster emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to the Executive Law or a local state of emergency proclaimed by the County Executive of Albany County pursuant to the Executive Law, if the Legislature determines that the circumstances necessitating the emergency declaration would affect or impair the ability of the County public bodies to hold an in-person meeting.

Section 8. 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 9. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State.

RESOLUTION NO. 228

PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW NO. "G" FOR 2022: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR OPEN MEETINGS OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY TO PROVIDE FOR MEMBER VIDEOCONFERENCING IN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES

Introduced: 6/13/22

By Mr. A. Joyce:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. "G" for 2022, "A Local Law of the County of Albany, New York Establishing Rules and Regulations for Open Meetings of the County of Albany to Provide for Member Videoconferencing in Limited Circumstances" will be held remotely by the Albany County Legislature at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 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.

LOCAL LAW “___” FOR 2022

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY REQUIRING ALL WEAPON AND/OR FIREARM DEALERS TO POST DISCLOSURES REGARDING SAFETY RISKS FROM FIREARMS

Introduced: 6/13/22

By Messrs. Reidy and Feeney:

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

SECTION 1. Title.

This Local Law shall be known as the “Albany County Commitment to Ensuring a Safe Society (ACCESS) Law.”

SECTION 2. Legislative Intent.

The purpose of this Local Law is to provide for and promote the health, safety and welfare of the general public by specifically informing buyers and potential buyers of weapons or firearms in Albany County of the dangers of owning a weapon or firearm.

This Legislature determines that gun violence is a uniquely American problem, which continues to worsen. The United States accounts for just 4% of the world’s population, but 35% of global firearm suicides and 9% of global firearm homicides. America has the weakest firearm laws and the most firearms — 393 million, more than this country’s population — of any comparable nation. Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed in a firearm homicide than people in other high-income countries.

Within the last ten years, the firearm mortality rate has risen nearly 18%, with an average of 39,000 Americans dying from firearm violence each year from 2015 to 2019. Over 45,000 Americans died from firearm violence in 2020 alone. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that an average of 483 deaths per year are from unintentional shootings. The average number of non-fatal shooting injuries is 76,127 each year.

Studies have shown that, when a firearm is easily accessible, the risk of homicide, suicide and unintentional shootings rises dramatically. Indeed, access to a firearm triples the risk of suicide. More than 6,000 veterans die by suicide each year, with more than two thirds of those deaths involving firearms. Domestic violence victims are five times more likely to be killed when their abuser has access to a firearm. Firearms are the leading cause of death for children under the age of 18.

Moreover, the database from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention demonstrates that firearm homicides and assaults disproportionately impact underserved communities of color. Black men make up 52% of all firearm homicide victims in the United States, despite comprising less than 6% of the population.

This Legislature finds that the existence of a weapon or firearm in a home can lead to accidental discharge causing the unintended death of a child or other household members, preventable suicide, and death during a domestic dispute. Requiring weapon and firearm dealers to post warning notices delineating the risks of weapons or firearms ownership will provide important information to customers who can then make safer buying choices.

Albany County is dedicated to protecting its residents. Accordingly, this law is intended to require all weapon or firearms dealers within Albany County to post and distribute conspicuous notices containing disclosures of the safety risks of weapons and firearms.

SECTION 3. Definitions.

a. Dealer. Any person, firm, partnership, corporation or company who engages in the business of purchasing, selling, keeping for sale, loaning, leasing, or in any manner disposing of including but not limited to: any rifle, shotgun, firearm, machine gun or assault weapon including a semiautomatic rifle, shotgun, or firearm, as those terms are defined in Section 265.00 of the New York State Penal Law, except that this definition shall not include any municipal corporation or any other local, state, or federal government agency;

b. Firearm. As stated in New York State Penal Law Section 265, (a) Any pistol or revolver; or (b) a shotgun having one or more barrels less than eighteen inches in length; or (c) a rifle having one or more barrels less than sixteen inches in length; or (d) any weapon made from a shotgun or rifle whether by alteration, modification, or otherwise if such weapon as altered, modified, or otherwise has an overall length of less than twenty-six inches; [or] (e) an assault weapon, or any other weapon that is not otherwise defined in this section containing any component that provides housing or a structure designed to hold or integrate any fire control component that is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of explosive.
The term "Firearm" shall not include an antique and inoperable firearm;

c. Weapon. Any rifle, shotgun, firearm, machine gun or assault weapon including a semiautomatic rifle, shotgun, firearm, as those terms are defined in Section 265.00 of the New York State Penal Law;

d. Site. The facility where any sale and/or transfer of weapons or firearms is conducted.

SECTION 4. Disclosure Notice.

a. Every Dealer located in Albany County engaged in the retail business of selling weapons or firearms shall not sell, deliver, transfer or otherwise dispose of any weapon or firearm to any person unless a notice is posted in the Site where such weapons or firearms are displayed or delivered to the purchaser, at the entrance to the Site and in at least one additional area where sales occur, conspicuously stating, in no smaller than 26-point type and on paper at least 8 and 1/2 inches by 11 inches in bold print the following warning:

WARNING
ACCESS TO [THE PRESENCE OF] A WEAPON OR FIREARM IN THE HOME SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES THE RISK OF SUICIDE, [HOMICIDE,] DEATH DURING DOMESTIC DISPUTES, AND/OR UNINTENTIONAL DEATHS TO CHILDREN, HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS AND OTHERS. IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS EXPERIENCING DISTRESS AND/OR DEPRESSION, CALL THE MOBILE CRISIS TEAM AT (518) 549-6500 or THE NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE AT (800) 273-8255.

b. Every Dealer located in Albany County engaged in the retail business of selling weapons or firearms shall not sell, deliver, transfer or otherwise dispose of any weapon or firearm to any person unless it distributes a notice to the purchaser at the time of each individual sale of a weapon or firearm, conspicuously stating, in no smaller than 26-point type and on paper at least 8 and 1/2 inches by 11 inches in bold print the following warning:

WARNING
ACCESS TO [THE PRESENCE OF] A WEAPON OR FIREARM IN THE HOME SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES THE RISK OF SUICIDE, [HOMICIDE,] DEATH DURING DOMESTIC DISPUTES, AND/OR UNINTENTIONAL DEATHS TO CHILDREN, HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS AND OTHERS. IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS EXPERIENCING DISTRESS AND/OR DEPRESSION, CALL THE MOBILE CRISIS TEAM AT (518) 549-6500 or THE NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE AT (800) 273-8255.

c. Upon the issuance of or amendment to a firearm or weapon license and/or permit, the County Clerk shall provide the licensee/permittee a written copy of a warning notice conspicuously stating in no smaller than 26-point type and on paper at least 8 and 1/2 inches by 11 inches in bold print the following warning:

WARNING

ACCESS TO [THE PRESENCE OF] A WEAPON OR FIREARM IN THE HOME SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES THE RISK OF SUICIDE, [HOMICIDE,] DEATH DURING DOMESTIC DISPUTES, AND/OR UNINTENTIONAL DEATHS TO CHILDREN, HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS AND OTHERS. IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS EXPERIENCING DISTRESS AND/OR DEPRESSION, CALL THE MOBILE CRISIS TEAM AT (518) 549-6500 or THE NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE AT (800) 273-8255.

d. Albany County and its agencies, officers, and/or employees shall not be liable to any party by reason of any injury or damage resulting from the failure of any Dealer to comply with this Chapter or in consequence of any act or omission in connection with the implementation or enforcement of this Chapter.

SECTION 5. Violations and Enforcement.

A. Any infraction of this Chapter, [or any rule promulgated thereunder,] shall be a violation punishable by imprisonment of not more than fifteen days or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both. Each day that a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.

B. The provisions of this Chapter shall be enforced within each municipality by the applicable local police force, including town, city and village police departments and the Albany County Sheriff's Office, which officers are authorized to issue appearance tickets for any violation of this Chapter. Appearance tickets shall be served personally.

SECTION 6. 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 7. Effective Date

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

LOCAL LAW NO. “G” FOR 2022

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR OPEN MEETINGS OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY TO PROVIDE FOR MEMBER VIDEOCONFERENCING IN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES

Introduction: 6/13/22

By: Mr. A. Joyce

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

Section 1. Legislative Intent and Purpose

All County bodies with final decision-making authority must comply with the New York Open Meetings Law. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, and pursuant to the various emergency executive orders of the Governor of the State of New York, the County Legislature and various County public bodies have been authorized to and have met remotely with great success.

In March 2022, the State Legislature enacted updates to the Open Meetings Law to allow for videoconferencing in non-state-emergency situations in limited circumstances. These updates authorize members of a public body who experience an “extraordinary circumstance” to attend meetings by videoconference: (i) as long as a quorum of the members attend in-person at one or more locations open to the public; (ii) as long as the member can be seen, heard, and identified while the open portion of the meeting is being conducted; and (iii) as otherwise permitted under State law. A member who participates from a remote location that is not open to in-person physical attendance by the public does not count toward a quorum of the public body, but may participate and vote if there is a quorum of members at the physical location(s) open to the public.

Under State law, advisory bodies are not “public bodies” as they do not have decision-making authority, and thus they do not need to comply with the requirements of the Open Meetings Law. There is tremendous value in ensuring that County advisory body meetings are open to the public and, as such, this Legislature finds that it is appropriate to continue to permit County advisory boards with no final decision-making authority to meet via videoconferencing, to encourage maximum public attendance and participation.

This Local Law will establish the definitions and framework for all decision-making bodies of Albany County, and these bodies shall incorporate changes into their respective rules or bylaws language that are consistent with this Local Law. For this

purpose alone, the Legislature waives any requirements that bylaws or rules of separate County public bodies be separately approved by the Legislature, insofar as such amendments are not inconsistent with or beyond the scope of this Local Law, and such changes shall be deemed to meet the requirements when submitted to the Legislature.

Because there are many County decision-making bodies which do not have the ability to conduct the type of public hearing necessary here, the Legislature will conduct a public hearing on behalf of all County decision-making bodies.

Section 2. Definitions

As contained in this Local Law, these terms shall have meanings as indicated herein:

“Alternate Presiding Officer” shall be defined as such individual who has been selected or appointed by a public body to make determinations on the applicability of requests for videoconferencing in instances when the Presiding Officer is absent or unavailable.

“Caregiving responsibilities” shall be defined as the provision of care to individuals suffering from conditions that often require the assistance of others, including but not limited to: physical decline; chronic conditions; visual and hearing impairments; sudden medical events; developmental disabilities; mental health or psychiatric disorders; and addiction. Additionally, such term shall also include provision of services for children or adults who are otherwise in need of assistance.

“Disability” shall be defined as (a) a physical, mental or medical impairment which prevents the exercise of a normal bodily function or is demonstrable by medically accepted clinical or laboratory diagnostic techniques or (b) a record of such an impairment or (c) a condition regarded by others as such an impairment.

“Executive session” shall have the meaning as defined as in section 105 of the Public Officers Law.

“Extraordinary circumstances” shall be defined as any significant or unexpected factor or event, which precludes a member's physical attendance at a meeting, including disability, illness, or caregiving responsibilities. This term shall not include pre-planned events which are not medical in nature, or employment or professional responsibilities.

“Illness” shall be defined as a disease or period of sickness affecting the body or mind.

“Meeting” shall be defined as the official convening of a public body for the purpose of conducting public business, including the use of videoconferencing for attendance and participation by members of the public body.

“Member” shall be defined as any individual with the ability to cast a vote or who is counted towards a quorum for a public body.

“Presiding Officer” shall be defined as the individual who has been selected or appointed by a public body to preside over its meetings – usually the Chairperson – with authority to facilitate the business of the public body and address issues of order and decorum, who has authority pursuant to this Local Law to review, evaluate, and determine requests for videoconferencing attendance by members.

“Public body” shall be defined as any entity, for which a quorum is required in order to conduct public business and which consists of two or more members, performing a governmental function for the County. Pursuant to State law, this does not include any body which is advisory or does not perform a governmental function.

“Quorum” shall be defined as a majority of members of the body, which is the number needed to take formal action on a matter of public business.

“Videoconferencing” shall be defined as the use of technology allowing for a member of a public body to remotely attend and participate in a meeting while in a separate location from the quorum of members physically present for said meeting, provided that such videoconferencing member can be heard, seen and identified while the meeting is being conducted by the members of the public body and the public.

Section 3. Requiring Bylaws/Rules Changes by All County Public Bodies.

This Local Law establishes rules regarding member participation via videoconferencing for all County public bodies. Each County public body must adopt changes to its bylaws or rules consistent with this Local Law. It shall be the responsibility of each public body to determine the form and manner in which its bylaws or rules are amended.

All County public bodies shall provide copies of their revised bylaws or rules to the Legislature, and any other such entities as required by law. This Legislature hereby deems as accepted and approved any amendments to bylaws or rules that would otherwise require legislative approval, insofar as such amendments are not inconsistent with or beyond the scope of this Local Law, provided that such approval is not inconsistent with any other provisions of law.

Section 4. Use and Requirements of Videoconferencing

A. The use of videoconferencing by County public bodies is authorized when the following criteria are met:

1. The County Legislature has adopted this Local Law, following a public hearing;
2. The public body has amended its bylaws or rules consistent with this Local Law to authorize the use of videoconferencing;
3. The public body has established written procedures governing member and public attendance consistent with this Local Law, and such written procedures are conspicuously posted on the County website;
4. The public body has a minimum number of members physically present to fulfill the public body's quorum requirement in physical location(s) where the public can attend;
5. Extraordinary circumstances exist which would prevent a member from meeting in the physical location(s) where a quorum of members are jointly present;
6. Said member is physically present within the County of Albany;
7. Said member has provided notice, justification, and documentation (where applicable) to the extent possible for their absence to the Presiding Officer and/or Alternate Presiding Officer of the public body, as far in advance as practicable. For purposes of the County Legislature, such notice shall be provided to the Clerk of the Legislature and the Chairperson of the Legislature. All other public bodies of the County of Albany shall adopt policies related to who is to receive such notice.
8. Said absence has been approved by the Presiding Officer, or the Alternate Presiding Officer, in situations where the Presiding Officer is absent or otherwise unable to attend in person, after a determination that extraordinary circumstances exist.
9. Where documentation supporting a request to videoconference has been provided, the Presiding Officer may publicly confirm receipt of such documentation, but may not share the contents of such documentation outside of the public body.

B. When videoconferencing is used, the following are required:

1. Except in the case of executive sessions, the public body shall ensure that remote members of the public body can be heard, seen and identified at all times during the meeting;
2. Minutes of such meetings shall include which members participated remotely and shall be available to the public;
3. Public notice(s) for the meeting shall inform the public that videoconferencing will be used, where the public can view and/or participate

- in such meeting, where required documents and records will be posted or available, and identify the physical location(s) for the meeting where the public can attend;
4. The meeting shall be recorded and such recordings posted or linked on the Albany County website within five business days following the meeting, shall remain so available for a minimum of five years thereafter, and shall be transcribed upon request;
 5. Members of the public must have the opportunity to attend the meeting via videoconferencing and participate where public comment or participation is authorized, in real-time, at all times being permitted the same public participation or testimony as in-person participation or testimony.

Section 5. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

Open meetings of any public body that are broadcast or use videoconferencing shall utilize technology to permit access by members of the public with disabilities consistent with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended, and corresponding guidelines. For the purposes of this Section, “disability” shall have the meaning defined in Executive Law Section 292.

Section 6. Public Hearing Requirement

The Albany County Legislature will hold a public hearing prior to the adoption of this Local Law, and said public hearing shall satisfy the requirement that all County public bodies hold a public hearing regarding videoconferencing rules.

Section 7. State of Emergency Provisions

The in-person participation requirements of the Public Officers Law shall not apply during a state disaster emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to the Executive Law or a local state of emergency proclaimed by the County Executive of Albany County pursuant to the Executive Law, if the Legislature determines that the circumstances necessitating the emergency declaration would affect or impair the ability of the County public bodies to hold an in-person meeting.

Section 8. 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 9. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State.