

County of Albany

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



Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

6:00 PM

**Harold L. Joyce Albany County Office Building
Cahill Room - First Floor**

Law Committee

PREVIOUS BUSINESS:

1. APPROVING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES
2. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "E" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 146 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO INCLUDE A PROHIBITION ON THE USAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE ASH IN PRODUCTS
3. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "L" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 112 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO CREATE A PUBLIC ART FUND
4. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "N" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED
5. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "T" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 288 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE FOR MOTOR VEHICLES
6. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "U" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN THE SALARY OF A COUNTY OFFICER DURING THEIR TERM OF OFFICE
7. AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO REQUIRE A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY TO ADOPT A TAX INCREASE
8. AMENDING VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVISING THE COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN BOARDS
9. AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE RULES OF ORDER FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMMITTEE CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM

10. LOCAL LAW NO. "E" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 146 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO INCLUDE A PROHIBITION ON THE USAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE ASH IN PRODUCTS
11. LOCAL LAW NO. "L" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 112 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO CREATE A PUBLIC ART FUND
12. LOCAL LAW NO. "N" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED
13. LOCAL LAW NO. "P" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 242 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO PROVIDE A LOCAL LICENSING SYSTEM FOR TOBACCO AND RELATED PRODUCTS
14. LOCAL LAW NO. "T" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 288 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE FOR MOTOR VEHICLES
15. LOCAL LAW NO. "U" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN THE SALARY OF A COUNTY OFFICER DURING THEIR TERM OF OFFICE
16. LOCAL LAW NO. "B" FOR 2025: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER ____ OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, SETTING FORTH REQUIREMENTS THAT THE ALBANY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NOTIFY LOCAL OFFICIALS REGARDING ELEVATED CONTAMINANT LEVELS FOUND IN DRINKING WATER IN ALBANY COUNTY
17. LOCAL LAW NO. "Q" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK CREATING CHAPTER ____ OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, REGARDING THE CREATION OF THE ALBANY COUNTY OFFICE OF ASSIGNED COUNSEL

CURRENT BUSINESS:

18. AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS BY THE VARIOUS OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS OF ALBANY COUNTY GOVERNMENT WITHOUT INDIVIDUAL ACTION BY THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE
19. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "C" FOR 2025: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING CHAPTER 270 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE REGARDING CREATING A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS ON EXISTING RESIDENTIAL PARCELS
20. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "D" FOR 2025: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO THE ALBANY CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY
21. LOCAL LAW NO. "C" FOR 2025: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 270 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE REGARDING CREATING A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS ON EXISTING RESIDENTIAL PARCELS
22. LOCAL LAW NO. "D" FOR 2025: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO THE ALBANY CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY
23. AMENDING THE 2025 PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE BUDGET: SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

County of Albany

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

6:00 PM

**Harold L. Joyce Albany County Office Building
Cahill Room - First Floor**

Law Committee

PREVIOUS BUSINESS:

Present: Jeffrey D. Kuhn, Dustin M. Reidy, Dennis A. Feeney,
Susan C. Laurilliard, Carolyn McLaughlin, Victoria Plotsky,
Bill L. Ricard, Paul J. Burgdorf and Jeff S. Perlee

1. APPROVING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

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

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "E" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 146 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO INCLUDE A PROHIBITION ON THE USAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE ASH IN PRODUCTS

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

3. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "L" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 112 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO CREATE A PUBLIC ART FUND

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

4. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "N" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

5. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "T" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 288 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

6. AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO REQUIRE A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY TO ADOPT A TAX INCREASE

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

7. AMENDING VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVISING THE COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN BOARDS

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

8. AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE RULES OF ORDER FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMMITTEE CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

9. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "B" FOR 2025: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER ____ OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, SETTING FORTH REQUIREMENTS THAT THE ALBANY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NOTIFY LOCAL OFFICIALS REGARDING ELEVATED CONTAMINANT LEVELS FOUND IN DRINKING WATER IN ALBANY COUNTY

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

10. LOCAL LAW NO. "E" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 146 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO INCLUDE A PROHIBITION ON THE USAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE ASH IN PRODUCTS

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

11. LOCAL LAW NO. "L" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 112 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO CREATE A PUBLIC ART FUND

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

12. LOCAL LAW NO. "N" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED

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

13. LOCAL LAW NO. "P" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 242 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO PROVIDE A LOCAL LICENSING SYSTEM FOR TOBACCO AND RELATED PRODUCTS

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

14. LOCAL LAW NO. "T" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 288 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

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

15. LOCAL LAW NO. "U" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN THE SALARY OF A COUNTY OFFICER DURING THEIR TERM OF OFFICE

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

16. LOCAL LAW NO. "A" FOR 2025: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING SALARIES FOR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

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

Aye: Kuhn, Feeney, Plotsky and Ricard

Nay: Burgdorf and Perlee

Excused: Reidy, Laurilliard and McLaughlin

17. LOCAL LAW NO. "B" FOR 2025: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER ___ OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, SETTING FORTH REQUIREMENTS THAT THE ALBANY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NOTIFY LOCAL OFFICIALS REGARDING ELEVATED CONTAMINANT LEVELS FOUND IN DRINKING WATER IN ALBANY COUNTY

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

CURRENT BUSINESS:

18. AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 120 FOR 2022 REGARDING THE ENOUGH IS ENOUGH GRANT PROGRAM

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

**19. AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 74 FOR 2022, AS AMENDED,
REGARDING THE THIRD COUNSEL AT FIRST APPEARANCE GRANT
AND AMENDING THE 2025 PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE BUDGET**

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

**20. AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS
INC. REGARDING IPADS AND CELLULAR SERVICE**

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

**21. AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS REGARDING THE SCHOOL BUS STOP
ARM ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

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

**22. AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES TO INCREASE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BURIAL
ALLOWANCES**

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

**23. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "U" FOR 2024: A
LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, PROVIDING
FOR A CHANGE IN THE SALARY OF A COUNTY OFFICER DURING
THEIR TERM OF OFFICE**

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Committee.

LOCAL LAW “E” FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 146 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO INCLUDE A PROHIBITION ON THE USAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE ASH IN PRODUCTS

Introduced: 4/8/24

By Reinhardt, Simpson and Fein:

BE IT ENACTED by the Albany County Legislature as follows:

Section 1. § 146-34 – Title.

This local law hereby creates Chapter 146, Article 5, **Prohibition on Usage of Hazardous Waste Ash.**

Section 2. § 146-35 - Legislative Purpose and Intent.

The Albany County Legislature hereby finds and determines that the incineration of hazardous waste produces fly ash, flue gas emission control waste, and slag (hereinafter collectively as "hazardous waste ash"). Hazardous waste ash may contain chemicals and heavy metals such as arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, and nickel, which are all potentially toxic to humans and are known to cause or contribute to cancer, lung and heart ailments, liver and kidney damage, neurological damage, and premature mortality.

Hazardous waste ash may also contain mineralogical toxins such as fine crystalline when the feedstock to the industrial process contain silica. Fine particulate crystalline silica induces silicosis when inhaled and is a known respiratory health risk. Hazardous waste ash may be inhaled and become lodged in the deepest parts of the human respiratory system, leading to potentially fatal inflammation and immunological reactions. Fine particulate crystalline silica can induce silicosis and lung cancer separate from silicosis and smoking when inhaled and is a known health risk for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and kidney disease.

Under certain existing commercial practices, hazardous waste ash is included in aggregate material used to formulate commonly encountered compounds such as concrete, pavement, and other compounds found in commerce. The inclusion of hazardous waste ash in aggregate material and commonly encountered compounds exposes the public to potentially toxic substances and endangers public health.

Section 3. § 146-36 – Definitions.

"Aggregate" -- any natural or artificial mixture typically consisting of but not limited to sand, gravel, crushed stone, vermiculite, clinker, expanded or sintered clay or shale, foamed slag, or recycled concrete or asphalt that is used as an ingredient in compound materials.

"Product" -- any aggregate, compound, item, substance, material, component, system, or subsystem sold or traded or produced for sale or trade to the general public in the course of normal business operations.

"Compound" -- asphalt concrete, portland cement concrete, concrete block, structural concrete, unreinforced or lightweight concrete, or any other substance composed of aggregate that is used in construction and engineering applications.

"Fine-Particle Control Device" -- any apparatus, structure, or method of filtration that falls into any of the following general categories:

- (i) fabric filters, also known as baghouses or bag filters;
- (ii) electrostatic collectors, including dry and wet electrostatic precipitators and ionizing wet scrubbers;
- (iii) wet inertial-impaction collectors, including venturi scrubbers and advanced designs that use flux-force condensation-enhancement techniques; or
- (iv) cyclone separators or any other apparatus, structure, or method that is capable of separating fine particles from gas.

"Flue Gas Emission Control Waste" -- the particulates recovered from fine-particle control devices and other receptacles during the treatment of flue gas.

"Fly Ash" -- the fine, lightweight particulates that are transported from the combustion chamber by flue gases into exhaust stacks or other receptacles.

"Hazardous Waste Ash" -- fly ash, flue gas emission control waste, and slag produced as a byproduct of incineration of hazardous waste.

"Slag" -- the molten or once-molten ash that collects on fine-particle control devices or other receptacles as well as chunks in bottom ash.

"Person" -- any individual, public or private corporation, industry, co-partnership, association, firm, trust, estate or private legal entity.

Section 4. § 146-37 - Prohibition on Usage of Hazardous Waste Ash in Products.

No person shall mix, combine or blend hazardous waste ash with any product. This prohibition shall also apply to any material collected from fine-particle control devices

serving as pollution control or containment systems at any hazardous waste incinerator or kiln that is permitted by the department to receive and combust hazardous waste with or without energy recovery.

This prohibition shall not apply to the use or reuse of hazardous waste materials by any Department or Division of Albany County. Specifically, ash product that is produced through the incineration of wastewater sludge at the Albany County Water Purification District is not considered a hazardous material pursuant to this Local Law and is thereby exempt from the provisions of this legislation.

Section 5. § 146-38 - Enforcement.

Any person or entity who violates the provisions of this Local Law shall be subject to the imposition of a civil penalty by the Commissioner of Health of not more than \$5,000 for a first violation, \$10,000 for a second violation, and \$20,000 for each violation thereafter.

The civil penalties provided by this section shall be recoverable in an action instituted in the name of the County of Albany. The County of Albany may also institute a suit in equity where unlawful conduct exists for an injunction to restrain a violation of this Local Law.

Section 6. Severability

The provisions of this Act shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision is declared to be invalid or is preempted by Federal or State law or regulation, the validity of the remainder of this Act shall not be affected.

Section 7. 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 8. Effective Date.

This Local Law act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.

*Referred to Conservation, Sustainability, and Green Initiatives and Law
Committees – 4/8/24*

RESOLUTION NO. 215

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. “E” FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 146 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO INCLUDE A PROHIBITION ON THE USAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE ASH IN PRODUCTS

Introduced: 4/8/24

By Reinhardt and Simpson:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “E” for 2024, “A Local Law of the County of Albany, New York Amending Chapter 146 of the Albany County Code to Include a Prohibition on the Usage of Hazardous Waste Ash in Products” to be held by the Albany County Legislature at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, with participation information to be made available on the Albany County website, and the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to cause notice of such hearing to be published containing the necessary information in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

Referred to Conservation, Sustainability, and Green Initiatives and Law Committees – 4/8/24

Favorable Recommendation Rules Review and Legislative Modernization Committee – 6/25/24

LOCAL LAW NO. “L” FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 112 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO CREATE A PUBLIC ART FUND

Introduced: 7/8/24

By Reidy:

A Local Law creating Chapter 112 of the Code of the County of Albany, entitled **Arts and Culture**, and Article 1 of such Chapter, entitled **Public Art Fund**, to provide public financial support for public art in Albany County.

BE IT ENACTED by the Albany County Legislature as follows:

Section 1. Chapter Creation.

Chapter 112, **Arts and Culture** is hereby created.

Chapter 112, Article I, **Public Art Fund**, is hereby created.

Section 2. § 112-1, Title.

This Local Law shall be known as the “Albany County Matthew Peter Public Art Law.”

Section 3. § 112-2, Legislative Intent.

The Albany County Legislature hereby finds and determines that art is essential to the human experience and should be accessible to all County residents.

The Legislature further finds and determines that, in addition to aesthetic value, public art installations provide a community-building effect that evoke empathy, understanding, identity, and a sense of belonging.

The Legislature further finds and determines that public art is an indispensable tool combat blight, promote mental and physical health, deter criminal activity, and increase public safety in communities.

The Legislature further finds and determines that public art allows the community to participate in the creation of public spaces and is a powerful way to increase neighborhood pride and identity, foster social bonds, and provide access to art for all people regardless of their circumstance.

The Legislature further finds and determines that public art brings economic benefits such as increased tourism and new jobs by encouraging pedestrian activity, improving the viability of local businesses, and stimulating the local creative economy.

The Legislature further finds and determines that local artists should be valued for their work and provided opportunities to use their essential talents and skills to better the County in exchange for fair compensation.

The Legislature further finds and determines that due to the aforementioned reasons, Albany County would benefit greatly from the creation of a funding mechanism for public art related to certain County capital construction projects.

Section 4. § 112-3, Definitions.

“Public Art” includes any application of artistic skill to the production of tangible objects according to aesthetic principles. “Public Art” includes, but is not limited to, paintings, sculptures, engravings, carvings, frescoes, mobiles, murals, collages, mosaics, statues, bas-reliefs, tapestries, photographs, fountains, streetscapes, drawings, ceramics, topiary, and other decorative public use features.

“Capital Projects” includes:

- (a) New construction of a building or of additional space added to a building; and/or
- (b) Any reconstruction or renovation of a building or part of a building, whether financed through the issuance of bonds, pay-as-you-go funding, or other non-County funding sources.

“Projects” shall not include those which are solely for rehabilitation of equipment.

“Cost of a Project” includes design, architectural and engineering fees, site work, construction, and contingency allowances for a project.

“Public Art Fund” means a fund to which 1 percent of the value of a new capital project, up to a maximum of \$10,000 for each capital project, will be allocated to fund public art initiatives in Albany County.

“Board” refers to the Public Art Board of Directors.

“Master Public Art Plan” means the annual plan drafted by the Public Art Committee to ensure a transparent, culturally-competent acquisition program and clear implementation guidelines.

Section 5. § 112-4, Public Art Fund.

Capital projects that are \$250,000 or greater, whether funded by capital funds or operating funds, shall include the appropriation of funds equal to 1 percent of the cost of the project, with said funds to be appropriated for the acquisition, maintenance, and management of public art, except where the appropriating resolution, bond resolution, or budget may provide otherwise; provided, however, that, where applicable, such amount shall be reduced to the extent that state funds, Federal funds, and funding derived from water rates, water quality treatment charges, sewer rents and sewage, wastewater and refuse collection charges in the County, are not authorized to be used for such purpose. The maximum allocated for public art shall be \$10,000 from each eligible capital project.

A public art fund shall be created by the Department of Management and Budget to hold funds for implementation of the projects finalized in the Master Public Art Plan and/or projects chosen by the Public Art Board of Directors. The fund shall be known as the “Matthew Peter Public Art Fund” in memory of the late Legislator Matthew Peter who championed public art projects in the City of Albany.

The use of any funds appropriated for any project for public art purposes shall be in accordance with the Master Public Art Plan, except that any such funds provided from the proceeds of County serial bonds or notes shall be used only for public art purposes related to the project for which such bonds or notes were authorized. To the extent the total appropriation of a project is not used for the acquisition of works of art for said project, upon the approval of the County Legislature, the remainder may be used for:

- (a) Arts program administrative costs, insurance costs, or the repair and maintenance of any artwork acquired under this law; or
- (b) Supplementing other appropriations for the acquisition of artwork under this law or to place artwork in or near government facilities which have already been constructed.

Section 6. § 112-5, Public Art Board of Directors.

- A. There shall be Public Art Board of Directors, henceforth referred to as the Board, consisting of five voting members. The County Executive shall appoint one member, the Majority Leader of the Legislature shall appoint two members, the Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus shall appoint one member, and the full County Legislature shall appoint one member. All five members shall be subject to confirmation by the Legislature. The Board shall appoint a Chair from its membership to serve a one-year term.
- B. All Board members shall be experts in the fields of art, art history, architecture, or architectural history. Members must be residents of Albany County and may not be a County employee or officer or serve on any other

County advisory boards. Members shall be professionally associated with local visual arts groups, such as art galleries or art schools, or have at least 10 years of experience creating professional art.

- C. In addition to the five voting Board members, the County Executive, the Chair of the Legislature, the Chair of the Legislature's Public Works Committee, and the Majority Leader of the Legislature, or their designees, shall serve as ex officio members of the Board.
- D. The Board shall choose the method of acquisition of public art for each project. Methods of acquisition may include, but are not limited to, projects of preexisting art, direct commission, art competition, request for proposals, or acceptance of donations.
- E. For each project, the Board may convene a panel comprised of at least three Board members, one of whom shall be designated panel Chair. The Board may also appoint additional art experts to serve as members of the project panel. The Board may appoint additional members to the panel to serve as advisors, such as community representatives, County employees, project managers, or others who will have frequent contact with the public art when it is completed. An architect or engineer shall be an ex officio member of each panel. The panel shall review the scope of each project and shall make recommendations to the Board on the nature of the public art to be considered for the project, the method of acquisition for each project, the specific artist and the specific art for each project, and what portion of the budget for each project shall be used for refurbishing or restoring existing works of art or to be set aside for the maintenance of a work of art.
- F. The acquisition and siting of all artwork shall be subject to legislative approval.
- G. Ownership and title of all works of public art acquired by the County under this Local Law shall be vested in the County of Albany.
- H. The Board shall create by-laws, subject to legislative approval, which will govern the conduct and operations of the Board.
- I. The Albany County Department of Economic Development and Planning shall serve as coordinator for the program and provide staff support to the Board.
- J. The Board shall deliver an annual report to the County Legislature detailing its operations, Master Public Art Plan, and art created under its authority.

Section 7. § 112-6, Master Public Art Plan.

The Board shall prepare an annual Master Public Art Plan (“Plan”), subject to legislative approval, to ensure a transparent, culturally-competent acquisition program and clear implementation guidelines. The Board shall hold a public hearing on the Master Public Art Plan prior to its approval. The Master Public Art Plan shall be approved by the Board and submitted to the legislature annually by March 1.

- (a) All acquisitions and sales of public art shall be in accordance with the Master Public Art Plan. The Board shall recommend acquisitions and the hiring of artists in addition to overseeing the public education and curatorial aspects of the acquisition program.
- (b) The Plan shall make all efforts to be equitable and include artists from a variety of different backgrounds for public art projects. The siting of these projects shall be County-wide, but shall include efforts to place art in underserved areas.
- (c) The Plan shall make all efforts to utilize artists who are County residents.
- (d) The Plan shall emphasize the importance of fair and adequate compensation for artists.
- (e) The Plan shall be voted on by the Legislature and presented to the Department of Economic Development and Planning by May 1st each year.
- (f) The Board shall, through the Plan and its acquisition program, make best efforts to call for artist submissions and publicize the intention to find appropriate art within 30 days of the Plan’s approval each year.
- (g) Final contracts to authorize public art contracts and the hiring of artists are subject to approval by the Albany County Legislature.

Section 8. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, subdivision, or other part of this Local Law or its application shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of the Local Law which shall remain in full force and effect except as limited by such order or judgment.

Section 9. 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 10. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately following its filing with the Office of the Secretary of State.

RESOLUTION NO. 420

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. “L” FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 112 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO CREATE A PUBLIC ART FUND

Introduced: 7/8/24

By Reidy:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “L” for 2024, “A Local Law of the County of Albany, New York Establishing Chapter 112 of the Albany County Code to Create a Public Art Fund” to be held by the Albany County Legislature at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 576

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. “N” FOR 2024 A
LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE
ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS
AMENDED**

Introduced: 9/9/24

By Cunningham:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “N” for 2024, “A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED” to be held by the Albany County Legislature at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 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 Rules Review and Legislative Modernization Committees
– 9/9/24*

LOCAL LAW NO. N FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR AN OFFICE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Introduced: 9/9/24

By Cunningham, Willingham:

PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 10 AND 33 OF THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW, COUNTY LAW SECTION 400 AND SECTION 2702 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Albany as follows:

SECTION I. Legislative Intent:

In 2012, a Charter Review Commission was formed by this Honorable Body to determine what, if any, changes could be made to the then decade's old charter. The Commission met routinely over the course of a year and published recommended changes to the Charter, many of which sought to streamline processes or modernize the County's operations. To date, many of the proposed changes have been adopted, but a various substantive changes have evaded adoption. One major proposal by the Charter Review Commission was to replace the County's four, part-time Coroners with a single full-time Medical Examiner. This change would modernize death investigations in the County, a change that many other counties have adopted over the years.

[A second major proposal from the Charter Review Commission is to expand the governance of the Board of Contract Administration. The Board's authority was established in 1993, and provided oversight of contracts less than \$100,000. The Charter Review Commission suggested increasing that amount based on inflation, which would have been \$155,000 at the time of the Charter Review Commission's proposal. Today, that amount, adjusted for inflation, is approximately \$215,000. The recommendation of the Charter Review Commission should be adopted to reflect the fact that the Board of Contract Administration is operating in 2024, and not 1993.

Finally, part of the recommendations of the Charter Review Commission was to incorporate various departments into the Charter, departments that were absent (or not yet in existence) in the original document. These proposed changes do just that, with the Division of Information Services and the newly retitled Department of Parks and Recreation.]

SECTION II. [Article 5 of the Albany County Charter is hereby amended to create the following sections:

Section 504: Information Services.

There shall be within the Department of Management and Budget an independent Division of Information Services headed by a Chief Information Officer. The Chief Information Officer shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature as provided in Section 302(c) of this Charter, and serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Chief Information Officer and staff shall be charged with providing information, technology and computer systems services in support of the county's departments and administrative units. The Chief Information Officer shall perform such other and related duties as shall be required or delegated to her by the County Executive or the County Legislature.

SECTION III. Article 13 of the Albany County Charter is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1301: Board of Contract Administration; powers and duties.

For the purpose of simplifying, clarifying and centralizing the approval process for contracts, there is hereby established a Board of Contract Administration. The Board shall be composed of the County Executive, the Chairperson of the County Legislature and the County Clerk. The Board of Contract Administration is empowered to approve contracts for execution by the County Executive in amounts of not less than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), and, not more than [one] two hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$[100]215,000), or such higher amount as may be established by local law. The Board shall report [periodically] quarterly to the County Legislature, detailing the contracts approved by it.

Section 1302: Other contract approvals.

The County Executive shall be empowered to approve and execute contracts in an amount less than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). The County Legislature shall be empowered to approve contracts for execution by the County Executive in amounts over [one] two hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$[100]215,000), in addition to those mentioned in Section 204(m) of this Charter. The County Executive shall not, through change orders, amendments, renewals, or any other method or device, exceed such twenty thousand dollar (\$20,000) limit with respect to any vendor or subject matter, without approval of the County Legislature.

Section 1303: Annual Adjusted Amount

The dollar amounts set forth above in sections 1301 and 1302 of this Article shall be adjusted annually on the first day of January each year by the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") to keep pace with inflation. The County's Department of Management and Budget shall sue the annual CPI data for adjustment. The annual adjusted dollar amount shall be provided to the Clerk of the Legislature by the Commissioner of Management and Budget upon it being determined.

SECTION IV.] Article 19 of the Albany County Charter is hereby repealed entirely.

Article 9: Department of Health is hereby amended by adding the following subsections:

Section 905: Office of Medical Examiner; Appointment; Qualifications

- (a) There shall be an Office of Medical Examiner, a division of the Albany County Department of Health. The Office shall be headed by a Chief Medical Examiner who shall be appointed by the County Executive for a six-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. At the time of their appointment, and throughout their appointment, the Medical Examiner shall be and remain duly licensed and entitled to practice medicine in the State of New York and shall have an expertise in forensic pathology and such other qualifications for the responsibilities of the Office as determined by the Commissioner of Health. Notwithstanding the provisions of Public Officer's Law Section 38 and County Law Section 400, if the Office of Chief Medical Examiner becomes vacant other than by expiration of term, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the County Executive for a five-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature.
- (b) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, shall appoint a Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, who shall also be a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York. In addition to such other duties as may be assigned by the Chief Medical Examiner, the Chief Deputy Medical Examiner shall possess the powers and perform the duties of the Medical Examiner during his absence or inability to act.
- (c) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, may, in conformity with the rules and regulations applicable to the civil service, appoint such forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners as may be authorized by the County Legislature. Forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners shall assist the Chief Medical Examiner in the conduct of investigations and the discharge of his other duties and responsibilities; shall conduct tests and examinations and furnish forensic, medical, investigative and technical services; and shall possess such qualifications and perform such other duties as may be determined by the Chief Medical Examiner.

[SECTION VI. Article 20 of the Albany County Charter is hereby repealed entirely and replaced as follows:

Article 20: Parks and Recreation.

There shall be a Parks and Recreation Department which shall be responsible for providing recreation programs and opportunities for the Albany County community that develops fundamental social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills that promote a higher quality of life. The department head shall be the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. The Commissioner of Parks and Recreation shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature as provided in Section 302(c) of this Charter, and serve at the pleasure of the County

Executive. The Commissioner of Parks and Recreation shall perform such other and related duties as shall be required or delegated to her by the County Executive or the County Legislature.]

SECTION [V]III. 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 IV[III]. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State if it is approved by a affirmative vote of the qualified electors of the County of Albany voting upon a proposition for its approval at the next general election in conformity with the provisions of Section 34 of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law and Section 2702 of the Albany County Charter.

LOCAL LAW NO. FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR AN OFFICE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Introduced: 9/9/24

By Cunningham, Willingham:

PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 10 AND 33 OF THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW, COUNTY LAW SECTION 400 AND SECTION 2702 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Albany as follows:

SECTION I. Legislative Intent:

In 2012, a Charter Review Commission was formed by this Honorable Body to determine what, if any, changes could be made to the then decade's old charter. The Commission met routinely over the course of a year and published recommended changes to the Charter, many of which sought to streamline processes or modernize the County's operations. To date, many of the proposed changes have been adopted, but a various substantive changes have evaded adoption. One major proposal by the Charter Review Commission was to replace the County's four, part-time Coroners with a single full-time Medical Examiner. This change would modernize death investigations in the County, a change that many other counties have adopted over the years.

SECTION II

Article 19 of the Albany County Charter is hereby repealed entirely.

Article 9: Department of Health is hereby amended by adding the following subsections:

Section 905: Office of Medical Examiner; Appointment; Qualifications

- (a) There shall be an Office of Medical Examiner, a division of the Albany County Department of Health. The Office shall be headed by a Chief Medical Examiner who shall be appointed by the County Executive for a six-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. At the time of their appointment, and throughout their appointment, the Medical Examiner shall be and remain duly licensed and entitled to practice medicine in the State of New York and shall have an expertise in forensic pathology and such other qualifications for the responsibilities of the Office as determined by the Commissioner of Health. Notwithstanding the provisions of Public Officer's Law Section 38 and County Law Section 400, if the Office of Chief Medical Examiner becomes vacant other

than by expiration of term, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the County Executive for a five-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature.

- (b) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, shall appoint a Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, who shall also be a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York. In addition to such other duties as may be assigned by the Chief Medical Examiner, the Chief Deputy Medical Examiner shall possess the powers and perform the duties of the Medical Examiner during his absence or inability to act.
- (c) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, may, in conformity with the rules and regulations applicable to the civil service, appoint such forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners as may be authorized by the County Legislature. Forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners shall assist the Chief Medical Examiner in the conduct of investigations and the discharge of his other duties and responsibilities; shall conduct tests and examinations and furnish forensic, medical, investigative and technical services; and shall possess such qualifications and perform such other duties as may be determined by the Chief Medical Examiner.

SECTION III. 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 IV. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State if it is approved by a affirmative vote of the qualified electors of the County of Albany voting upon a proposition for its approval at the next general election in conformity with the provisions of Section 34 of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law and Section 2702 of the Albany County Charter.

LOCAL LAW NO. “T” FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 288 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

Introduced: 12/2/24

By Fein, Laurilliard, A. Joyce and Miller:

A local law amending Chapter 288 of the Albany County Code, entitled **Vehicles**, to create Article IV of such Chapter, entitled **Minimum Passing Distance Requirements for Motor Vehicles**, to establish a minimum passing distance for motor vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED by the Albany County Legislature as follows:

Section 1. Article Creation.

Chapter 288, Article IV, **Minimum Passing Distance Requirements for Motor Vehicles**, is hereby created.

Section 2. §288-26, Title.

This local law shall be known as the “Albany County Safe Passing Law.”

Section 3. § 288-27, Legislative Intent.

The Albany County Legislature recognizes that bicyclists, pedestrians, and other vulnerable road users often need to share roadways with motor vehicles out of necessity.

The Legislature also acknowledges that in these situations, vulnerable road users are susceptible to the actions of motor vehicle operators who can pose a threat to their health and safety if passing too closely.

Therefore, this Legislature finds it necessary to establish a minimum passing distance for motor vehicles approaching or passing vulnerable road users.

Section 4. § 288-28, Vulnerable Road User.

“Vulnerable road user” means any pedestrian; person operating a wheelchair or other personal mobility device regardless of motorization; person operating a bicycle or other non-motorized mode of transportation such as roller skates, rollerblades, roller skis, skateboard, longboard, or unicycle; operator of roadway

construction, repair, or maintenance equipment; utility worker; construction worker; roadside assistance worker; operator of agricultural equipment; person riding, driving, or herding an animal; law enforcement officer; firefighter; emergency medical technician; or first responder.

Section 5. § 288-29, Minimum Distance Requirements for Motor Vehicles.

The operator of a motor vehicle that is approaching or passing vulnerable road user shall do so at a distance of at least three feet until safely clear thereof. The three-foot distance requirement shall not apply on roads with clearly-marked bicycle lanes as defined by New York Vehicle and Traffic Law § 102-a.

Section 6. § 288-30, Compliance with New York Vehicle and Traffic Law.

The operator of a motor vehicle that is approaching or passing a vulnerable road user shall not violate New York Vehicle and Traffic Law §§ 1122-a, 1124, 1125, 1126, or any other section pertaining to overtaking and passing.

Section 7. § 288-31, Penalties.

1. Any person committing the above-referenced offense shall be guilty of a violation and subject to a fine not to exceed \$225 for a first offense, \$325 for a second offense and \$425 for any third or subsequent offense(s).
2. This section does not preclude a person from being charged with, convicted of, or punished for any other violation of law.

Section 8. § 288-32, Applicability.

This law shall apply to all actions occurring on or after the effective date.

Section 9. § 288-33, Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, subdivision, or other part of this local law or its application shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of the local law which shall remain in full force and effect except as limited by such order or judgment.

Section 10. § 288-34, 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 11. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect immediately following its filing with the Office of the Secretary of State.

Referred to Law and Public Safety Committees – 12/02/24

RESOLUTION NO. 823

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. “T” FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 288 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

Introduced: 12/2/24

By Fein, Laurilliard, A. Joyce and Miller:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “T” for 2024, “A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 288 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE FOR MOTOR VEHICLES” be held by the Albany County Legislature at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 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 NO. U FOR 2024

**A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, PROVIDING
FOR A CHANGE IN THE SALARY OF A COUNTY OFFICER DURING THEIR
TERM OF OFFICE**

Introduced: 12/2/24

By Cunningham:

PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 24 AND 27 OF THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Albany as follows:

SECTION I.

By Local Law No. 7 for 2024, this Honorable Body provided for the creation of the position of Deputy Chairperson for the Albany County Legislature. Compensation commensurate with the duties of the Deputy Chairperson is warranted.

SECTION II.

The annual salary of the Deputy Chairperson shall be \$37,405 effective January 1, 2025.

SECTION III.

If any clause, sentence or provision of this local law or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of the provisions of this local law or the application thereof to other persons and circumstances.

SECTION IV.

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 V.

This Local Law is adopted subject to permissive referendum pursuant to Section 24 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

RESOLUTION NO. 827

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. “U” FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN THE SALARY OF A COUNTY OFFICER DURING THEIR TERM OF OFFICE

Introduced: 12/2/24

By Cunningham:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “U” for 2024, “A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN THE SALARY OF A COUNTY OFFICER DURING THEIR TERM OF OFFICE” be held by the County Legislature in the William J. Conboy II Legislative Chambers, Albany County Courthouse, Albany, New York at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 93

AMENDING VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVISING THE COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN BOARDS

Introduced: 3/10/25

By: Mauriello

WHEREAS, Albany County has a large number of development corporations and other organizations with boards of directors or otherwise composed of boards, and

WHEREAS, Many boards and boards of directors are comprised, either partly or fully, by legislative appointees, though in many instances these boards do not include participation by appointees of the Minority Conference of the Albany County Legislature, and

WHEREAS, As of February 2025, the Minority Conference of the Albany County Legislature represents more than 70,000 Albany County residents, and

WHEREAS, A large number of Albany County boards and boards of directors already include an appointee by the Minority Leader of the Albany County Legislature, and

WHEREAS, Regardless of political party affiliation, the Minority Conference of the Albany County Legislature should be included in the determination of board memberships as it relates to the administration of Albany County, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature that Section 346-5 of the Albany County Code is amended to read as follows:

§ 346-5 Board of Directors.

A. The Board of Directors shall consist of seven members to be appointed by the Albany County Legislature, one of which shall be on the recommendation of the Majority Leader of the County Legislature and one of which shall be on the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the County Legislature. Said members shall represent areas of interest or expertise, including, but not limited to: the building industry; architectural/planning and/or design industry; financial services; law enforcement; property management; municipal affairs; buildings and codes; real estate; building demolition industry; and historical renovation services.

B. All members of the Board shall be residents or have their primary place of business in the County of Albany, and said directors shall serve at the pleasure of the Legislature.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 320-2 of the Albany County Code is amended to read as follows:

§ 320-2 Composition.

The Committee shall be comprised of the County Superintendent of Highways, one member of the County Legislature designated by the Chair of the County Legislature, one member of the County Legislature designated by the Majority Leader of the County Legislature, one member of the County Legislature designated by the Minority Leader of the County Legislature, and [five] three members who shall be residents of the County, representing a cross-section of civic and business interests, and who shall be appointed by the Chair of the County Legislature. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 320-19 of the Albany County Code is amended to read as follows:

§ 320-19 Establishment; purpose; members.

The Human Services Advisory Board authorized by Article 21 of the Albany County Charter is established for the purposes set forth in said Article 21 and the County Legislature shall appoint members to the Human Services Advisory Board from time to time, with said individuals to serve thereon at the pleasure of the County Legislature[.] provided, however, that one member shall serve on the recommendation of the Majority Leader of the County Legislature and one member shall serve on the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the County Legislature.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 320-21 of the Albany County Code is amended to read as follows:

§ 320-21 Increase in membership.

The Legislature finds it is in the best interest of Albany County to expand the membership of the Albany County Industrial Development Agency to seven

members[.] provided, however, that one member shall serve on the recommendation of the Majority Leader of the County Legislature and one member shall serve on the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the County Legislature.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution shall take effect on January 1st, 2026, and shall be considered for the appointment of board members for all boards amended under this resolution beginning on that date, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

RESOLUTION NO. 94

AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE RULES OF ORDER FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMMITTEE CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM

Introduced: 3/10/25

By: Burgdorf

WHEREAS, Rule 21 of the Albany County Legislative Rules of Order establishes the Standing Committees that meet from month to month to review and approve legislation before this body, and

WHEREAS, The County Legislature currently has ten Standing Committees; and

WHEREAS, As currently composed, the ten Standing Committees of the Albany County Legislature have overlap of policy areas while some Committees are underutilized due to the assignment of relevant issues to portfolios of other Committees; and

WHEREAS, At least one current Standing Committee historically has not met for a majority of the months of the year; and

WHEREAS, The current Standing Committee structure requires meeting time blocks of no more than a half hour, preventing robust discussion of important issues affecting Albany County residents; and

WHEREAS, Possible consolidation of Standing Committees should be accompanied by an increase to the membership of the Committees to as to ensure Albany County Legislators remain able to participate in the Committee process; and

WHEREAS, Consolidation of Standing Committees and reallocation of important policy areas to appropriate Committees will improve Committee workflow, and increase the amount of time for discussion and debate; and

WHEREAS, Rules 21 and 22 currently contain an inconsistency related to the appointment of individuals to Standing Committees, requiring a correction, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature, that Rule 21 of the Legislative Rules of Order shall be amended to read as follows:

RULE 21 - STANDING COMMITTEES

The following standing committees, to consist of [nine] twelve members for each committee, including the Committee Chairperson for each committee, shall be appointed by the permanent Chairperson of the County Legislature from the membership of the County Legislature within twenty (20) days after said Chairperson's election, and a list thereof shall be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature, and each committee shall perform the duties as hereafter set forth. The Chairperson of the County Legislature shall appoint members of standing committees from the membership of the County Legislature as recommended by the majority and minority leaders. The number of majority members of each committee shall be in the same ratio as the majority members of the legislature are to the entire membership of the Legislature.

Within thirty (30) days of the listing of the committee assignments, each Committee Chairperson shall assign and officially list a time and a day for the regular monthly committee meetings; provided however that Committee Chairpersons may hold public hearings on any topic contained within the Duties of the Committee upon five (5) days notice. No Standing Committee of the Albany County Legislature shall meet on a civic holiday and consideration shall be given to avoid meeting on a religious holiday. The Committee Chairperson may cancel any meeting if there is no business for the Committee. In the event a member cannot attend a rescheduled regular meeting and to the extent it is legally permitted, such member may submit to the Chairperson a written statement of their opinion on business items which are on the Committee's agenda and those written opinions shall become part of the Committee's minutes.

Each and every Committee Chairperson shall, to the extent practicable, submit a copy of the Committee Agenda no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled Committee meeting. Every committee meeting shall be open to the public, however, this provision shall not preclude the right of the Chairperson to call for an executive session.

Vacancies on standing committees shall be filled by the Chairperson of the County Legislature from its membership. The majority leader and the minority leader shall be ex officio (non-voting) members of all committees.

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Audit and Finance
 - a. Audit and Control
 - b. Budget
 - c. Investment

- d. Capital Program
- e. Taxation

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to County finances including the Department of Audit and Control, the Department of Management and Budget, appropriations included in the County Budget and Capital Program, and verification of assessment rolls, equalization rates, and the sale of delinquent tax properties.

The Departments of Audit and Control, Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Management and Budget, the Real Property Tax Service Agency, and all departments involved in a capital project shall report to the standing committee on Audit and Finance.

- 2. Social Services
 - a. Social Services
 - b. Albany County Residential Health Care Facility
 - c. Department of Aging

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to public welfare and matters affecting the Social Services Department, Albany County Residential Health Care Facility, [except such matters relating to services to the elderly.] also all matters pertaining generally to public welfare and support of the elderly and all matters affecting the Department for Aging.

The Departments of Social Services, Aging, the Youth Bureau and the Albany County Residential Health Care Facility shall report to the standing committee on Social Services.

- 3. Health
 - a. Department of Health
 - b. Mental Health
 - c. Environmental Health

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to the County Health Department, County Board of Health, Sanitation Codes, Department of Mental Hygiene and Retardation Alcoholism Boards.

The Departments of Health and Mental Health and the County Coroners shall report to the standing committee on Health.

- 4. [Conservation, Sustainability and Green Initiatives] Environmental Conservation and Outdoors
 - a. Conservation and Improvement of County Resources
 - b. Cultural and Educational Affairs

- c. Department of Economic Development, Conservation and Planning
- d. Parks and Recreation
- e. Albany County Rail Trail

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to the improvement and advancement of the County, including walks, docks, marinas, parks and recreational facilities, preserves, beaches, erosion projects, and such other structures and facilities of the development, maintenance and management of parks and other recreational facilities, except those [having to do with highways and buildings] capital projects and agreements equaling a value greater than \$500,000 and also all matters pertaining generally to the Albany County Rail Trail excepting capital projects and agreements equaling a value greater than \$500,000, agriculture, Cooperative Extension Services, 4-H Clubs, the conservation of soil, forestry and wildlife and environmental matters.

The Departments of Economic Development, Conservation and Planning, Parks and Recreation, as well as the County Planning Board, all County agencies involved in cultural and educational affairs, the Cooperative Extension, the Soil and Water Conservation District and the Environmental Management Council shall report to the standing committee on Conservation, Sustainability and Green Initiatives.

- 5. Public Safety
 - a. Sheriff
 - b. Jail
 - c. Probation Office
 - d. Fire Coordinator
 - e. Civil Defense
 - f. Military Affairs

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to the operation of the Jail, Sheriff's Department and Probation Department and also all matters pertaining generally to the protection and well-being of the residents of the County.

The County Sheriff, Director of Probation, Fire Coordinator, the Office of Civil Defense and Natural Disaster and the Veterans Bureau shall report to the standing committee of Public Safety.

- 6. Personnel
 - a. Human Resources
 - b. Civil Service
 - c. County Officers

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to Human Resources, Civil Service affairs and the creation, organization and/or re-organization of County departments and offices as required.

The Department of Human Resources, including the Divisions of Employee Relations, Personnel Services, Affirmative Action, and Civil Service shall report to the standing committee on Personnel.

7. Law
 - a. Service Relationship
 - b. Department of Law
 - c. Public Defender's Office
 - d. District Attorney's Office
 - e. County Clerk
 - f. Board of Elections
 - g. Public Access
 - h. City and Towns
 - i. County Rules
 - j. Agency, Department and Inter-Governmental Coordination
 - k. Clerk of the Legislature

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to contracts with public corporations and authorities, County law and its structure, operation and maintenance of the offices of Public Defender, District Attorney and County Attorney and also all matters pertaining generally to printing, recording, maintaining, storing and accessibility to County records and matters relating to election accounts.

The District Attorney, the Public Defender, the Commissioner of Jurors, the Clerk of the Courts, the Board of Elections, the Department of Law, the Rape Crisis Center and all court officials under the jurisdiction of the County, the Public Access Officer, the County Clerk and the Clerk of the Legislature shall report to the standing committee of Law.

8. [Multimodal Transit and Pedestrian Access
 - a. Albany International Airport
 - b. Albany County Rail Trail
 - c. Traffic Safety Board
 - d. Capital District Transportation Authority

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to Albany International Airport, Albany County Rail Trail, Capital District Transportation Authority, Capital Region Transportation Council and transit oriented development in the County. The Committee shall review items related to the promotion of public transportation,

walkability of communities, and ensuring development provides accessibility for all with adherence to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

9.] Public Works

- a. [Albany County Residential Health Care Facilities] Airport
- b. Albany County Courthouse
- c. Civic Center
- d. County Buildings
- e. Highways
- f. Large capital investments for Parks and Recreation
- g. Water Purification District
- h. General Services
- i. Large capital investments for the Albany County Rail Trail

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to the Civic Center, and to major construction/renovation projects at the Albany County Courthouse [or Albany County Residential Health Care Facility], and all matters pertaining generally to the charge and supervision of design, construction and alterations of County buildings, parking fields, drives, [walks, docks, marinas, parks and recreational facilities, preserves, beaches, erosion projects, and such other structures and facilities of the development, maintenance and management of parks and other recreational facilities,] capital projects and agreements for Parks and Recreation and the Albany County Rail Trail equaling a value greater than \$500,000. also matters pertaining to County facilities for drainage, flood control, sanitation, sewerage and land water supply[.] in addition to all matters generally to the Airport and mass transit in the County.

The Manager and appropriate personnel of the Civic Center, the Departments of General Services, Public Works, Buildings, [Parks and Recreation], and the Water Purification District, as well as the Director of the Airport, the Traffic Safety Board and all County agencies involved in transportation shall report to the standing committee on Public Works.

[10. Elder Care

- a. Department of Aging
- b. Albany County Residential Health Care Facilities

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to public welfare and support of the elderly and all matters affecting the Department for Aging and the Albany County Residential Health Care Facility except such matters not relating to services to the elderly.

The Department of Aging and the Albany County Residential Health Care Facility shall report to the standing committee on Elder Care.]

and, be it further

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature, that Rule 22 of the Legislative Rules of Order shall be amended to read as follows:

RULE 22 - SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The County Legislature may from time to time create special committees, and any resolution creating such special committee shall specify the powers and duties of the committee and the number of its members. Special committee membership shall be determined in the same manner as standing committees as established in Rule 21. Any reference to Rule 22 with respect to the appointment of the members of standing committees shall be interpreted to mean the provisions of Rule 21. [Vacancies on standing and special committees shall be filled by the Chairperson of the County Legislature from its membership.] Vacancies on special committees shall be filled by the Chairperson of the County Legislature. [The majority leader and the minority leader shall be ex officio (non-voting) members of all committees. The Chairperson of the County Legislature shall appoint members of standing committees from the membership of the County Legislature as recommended by the majority and minority leaders. The number of majority members of each committee shall be in the same ratio as the majority members of the legislature are to the entire membership of the Legislature.] No meetings of any Special Committee of the Albany County Legislature shall be held on a civic holiday and consideration shall be given to avoid meeting on a religious holiday.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature, that Rule 39 of the Legislative Rules of Order shall be amended to read as follows:

RULE 39 - PUBLIC HEARINGS / MEETING TIMES

All public hearings or meetings of the body as a whole may not take place before 5:00 p.m. In the event that more than one public hearing is scheduled for the same night, the scheduled times shall be consecutive, with no more than a five minute delay between hearings. The Clerk shall take roll call and record the names of those members present and absent for the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing shall be livestreamed. All meetings of standing or special committees shall not take place before 5:00 p.m. unless agreed to by a majority of said standing or special committee members. Committee meetings shall be extended at least an additional thirty (30) minutes if any Committee member makes such request in writing upon receiving the Committee Agenda. No Public Hearing of the Albany County Legislature shall be held on a civic holiday and consideration shall be given to avoid meeting on a religious holiday.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall take effect on January 1st, 2026, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

LOCAL LAW “E” FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 146 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO INCLUDE A PROHIBITION ON THE USAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE ASH IN PRODUCTS

Introduced: 4/8/24

By Reinhardt, Simpson and Fein:

BE IT ENACTED by the Albany County Legislature as follows:

Section 1. § 146-34 – Title.

This local law hereby creates Chapter 146, Article 5, **Prohibition on Usage of Hazardous Waste Ash.**

Section 2. § 146-35 - Legislative Purpose and Intent.

The Albany County Legislature hereby finds and determines that the incineration of hazardous waste produces fly ash, flue gas emission control waste, and slag (hereinafter collectively as "hazardous waste ash"). Hazardous waste ash may contain chemicals and heavy metals such as arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, and nickel, which are all potentially toxic to humans and are known to cause or contribute to cancer, lung and heart ailments, liver and kidney damage, neurological damage, and premature mortality.

Hazardous waste ash may also contain mineralogical toxins such as fine crystalline when the feedstock to the industrial process contain silica. Fine particulate crystalline silica induces silicosis when inhaled and is a known respiratory health risk. Hazardous waste ash may be inhaled and become lodged in the deepest parts of the human respiratory system, leading to potentially fatal inflammation and immunological reactions. Fine particulate crystalline silica can induce silicosis and lung cancer separate from silicosis and smoking when inhaled and is a known health risk for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and kidney disease.

Under certain existing commercial practices, hazardous waste ash is included in aggregate material used to formulate commonly encountered compounds such as concrete, pavement, and other compounds found in commerce. The inclusion of hazardous waste ash in aggregate material and commonly encountered compounds exposes the public to potentially toxic substances and endangers public health.

Section 3. § 146-36 – Definitions.

"Aggregate" -- any natural or artificial mixture typically consisting of but not limited to sand, gravel, crushed stone, vermiculite, clinker, expanded or sintered clay or shale, foamed slag, or recycled concrete or asphalt that is used as an ingredient in compound materials.

"Product" -- any aggregate, compound, item, substance, material, component, system, or subsystem sold or traded or produced for sale or trade to the general public in the course of normal business operations.

"Compound" -- asphalt concrete, portland cement concrete, concrete block, structural concrete, unreinforced or lightweight concrete, or any other substance composed of aggregate that is used in construction and engineering applications.

"Fine-Particle Control Device" -- any apparatus, structure, or method of filtration that falls into any of the following general categories:

- (i) fabric filters, also known as baghouses or bag filters;
- (ii) electrostatic collectors, including dry and wet electrostatic precipitators and ionizing wet scrubbers;
- (iii) wet inertial-impaction collectors, including venturi scrubbers and advanced designs that use flux-force condensation-enhancement techniques; or
- (iv) cyclone separators or any other apparatus, structure, or method that is capable of separating fine particles from gas.

"Flue Gas Emission Control Waste" -- the particulates recovered from fine-particle control devices and other receptacles during the treatment of flue gas.

"Fly Ash" -- the fine, lightweight particulates that are transported from the combustion chamber by flue gases into exhaust stacks or other receptacles.

"Hazardous Waste Ash" -- fly ash, flue gas emission control waste, and slag produced as a byproduct of incineration of hazardous waste.

"Slag" -- the molten or once-molten ash that collects on fine-particle control devices or other receptacles as well as chunks in bottom ash.

"Person" -- any individual, public or private corporation, industry, co-partnership, association, firm, trust, estate or private legal entity.

Section 4. § 146-37 - Prohibition on Usage of Hazardous Waste Ash in Products.

No person shall mix, combine or blend hazardous waste ash with any product. This prohibition shall also apply to any material collected from fine-particle control devices

serving as pollution control or containment systems at any hazardous waste incinerator or kiln that is permitted by the department to receive and combust hazardous waste with or without energy recovery.

This prohibition shall not apply to the use or reuse of hazardous waste materials by any Department or Division of Albany County. Specifically, ash product that is produced through the incineration of wastewater sludge at the Albany County Water Purification District is not considered a hazardous material pursuant to this Local Law and is thereby exempt from the provisions of this legislation.

Section 5. § 146-38 - Enforcement.

Any person or entity who violates the provisions of this Local Law shall be subject to the imposition of a civil penalty by the Commissioner of Health of not more than \$5,000 for a first violation, \$10,000 for a second violation, and \$20,000 for each violation thereafter.

The civil penalties provided by this section shall be recoverable in an action instituted in the name of the County of Albany. The County of Albany may also institute a suit in equity where unlawful conduct exists for an injunction to restrain a violation of this Local Law.

Section 6. Severability

The provisions of this Act shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision is declared to be invalid or is preempted by Federal or State law or regulation, the validity of the remainder of this Act shall not be affected.

Section 7. 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 8. Effective Date.

This Local Law act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.

*Referred to Conservation, Sustainability, and Green Initiatives and Law
Committees – 4/8/24*

LOCAL LAW NO. FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR AN OFFICE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Introduced: 9/9/24

By Cunningham, Willingham:

PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 10 AND 33 OF THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW, COUNTY LAW SECTION 400 AND SECTION 2702 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Albany as follows:

SECTION I. Legislative Intent:

In 2012, a Charter Review Commission was formed by this Honorable Body to determine what, if any, changes could be made to the then decade's old charter. The Commission met routinely over the course of a year and published recommended changes to the Charter, many of which sought to streamline processes or modernize the County's operations. To date, many of the proposed changes have been adopted, but a various substantive changes have evaded adoption. One major proposal by the Charter Review Commission was to replace the County's four, part-time Coroners with a single full-time Medical Examiner. This change would modernize death investigations in the County, a change that many other counties have adopted over the years.

[A second major proposal from the Charter Review Commission is to expand the governance of the Board of Contract Administration. The Board's authority was established in 1993, and provided oversight of contracts less than \$100,000. The Charter Review Commission suggested increasing that amount based on inflation, which would have been \$155,000 at the time of the Charter Review Commission's proposal. Today, that amount, adjusted for inflation, is approximately \$215,000. The recommendation of the Charter Review Commission should be adopted to reflect the fact that the Board of Contract Administration is operating in 2024, and not 1993.

Finally, part of the recommendations of the Charter Review Commission was to incorporate various departments into the Charter, departments that were absent (or not yet in existence) in the original document. These proposed changes do just that, with the Division of Information Services and the newly retitled Department of Parks and Recreation.]

SECTION II. [Article 5 of the Albany County Charter is hereby amended to create the following sections:

Section 504: Information Services.

There shall be within the Department of Management and Budget an independent Division of Information Services headed by a Chief Information Officer. The Chief Information Officer shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature as provided in Section 302(c) of this Charter, and serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Chief Information Officer and staff shall be charged with providing information, technology and computer systems services in support of the county's departments and administrative units. The Chief Information Officer shall perform such other and related duties as shall be required or delegated to her by the County Executive or the County Legislature.

SECTION III. Article 13 of the Albany County Charter is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1301: Board of Contract Administration; powers and duties.

For the purpose of simplifying, clarifying and centralizing the approval process for contracts, there is hereby established a Board of Contract Administration. The Board shall be composed of the County Executive, the Chairperson of the County Legislature and the County Clerk. The Board of Contract Administration is empowered to approve contracts for execution by the County Executive in amounts of not less than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), and, not more than [one] two hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$[100]215,000), or such higher amount as may be established by local law. The Board shall report [periodically] quarterly to the County Legislature, detailing the contracts approved by it.

Section 1302: Other contract approvals.

The County Executive shall be empowered to approve and execute contracts in an amount less than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). The County Legislature shall be empowered to approve contracts for execution by the County Executive in amounts over [one] two hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$[100]215,000), in addition to those mentioned in Section 204(m) of this Charter. The County Executive shall not, through change orders, amendments, renewals, or any other method or device, exceed such twenty thousand dollar (\$20,000) limit with respect to any vendor or subject matter, without approval of the County Legislature.

Section 1303: Annual Adjusted Amount

The dollar amounts set forth above in sections 1301 and 1302 of this Article shall be adjusted annually on the first day of January each year by the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") to keep pace with inflation. The County's Department of Management and Budget shall sue the annual CPI data for adjustment. The annual adjusted dollar amount shall be provided to the Clerk of the Legislature by the Commissioner of Management and Budget upon it being determined.

SECTION IV.] Article 19 of the Albany County Charter is hereby repealed entirely.

Article 9: Department of Health is hereby amended by adding the following subsections:

Section 905: Office of Medical Examiner; Appointment; Qualifications

- (a) There shall be an Office of Medical Examiner, a division of the Albany County Department of Health. The Office shall be headed by a Chief Medical Examiner who shall be appointed by the County Executive for a six-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. At the time of their appointment, and throughout their appointment, the Medical Examiner shall be and remain duly licensed and entitled to practice medicine in the State of New York and shall have an expertise in forensic pathology and such other qualifications for the responsibilities of the Office as determined by the Commissioner of Health. Notwithstanding the provisions of Public Officer's Law Section 38 and County Law Section 400, if the Office of Chief Medical Examiner becomes vacant other than by expiration of term, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the County Executive for a five-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature.
- (b) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, shall appoint a Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, who shall also be a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York. In addition to such other duties as may be assigned by the Chief Medical Examiner, the Chief Deputy Medical Examiner shall possess the powers and perform the duties of the Medical Examiner during his absence or inability to act.
- (c) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, may, in conformity with the rules and regulations applicable to the civil service, appoint such forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners as may be authorized by the County Legislature. Forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners shall assist the Chief Medical Examiner in the conduct of investigations and the discharge of his other duties and responsibilities; shall conduct tests and examinations and furnish forensic, medical, investigative and technical services; and shall possess such qualifications and perform such other duties as may be determined by the Chief Medical Examiner.

[SECTION VI. Article 20 of the Albany County Charter is hereby repealed entirely and replaced as follows:

Article 20: Parks and Recreation.

There shall be a Parks and Recreation Department which shall be responsible for providing recreation programs and opportunities for the Albany County community that develops fundamental social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills that promote a higher quality of life. The department head shall be the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. The Commissioner of Parks and Recreation shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature as provided in Section 302(c) of this Charter, and serve at the pleasure of the County

Executive. The Commissioner of Parks and Recreation shall perform such other and related duties as shall be required or delegated to her by the County Executive or the County Legislature.]

SECTION [V]III. 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 IV[III]. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State if it is approved by a affirmative vote of the qualified electors of the County of Albany voting upon a proposition for its approval at the next general election in conformity with the provisions of Section 34 of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law and Section 2702 of the Albany County Charter.

LOCAL LAW NO. FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR AN OFFICE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Introduced: 9/9/24

By Cunningham, Willingham:

PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 10 AND 33 OF THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW, COUNTY LAW SECTION 400 AND SECTION 2702 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Albany as follows:

SECTION I. Legislative Intent:

In 2012, a Charter Review Commission was formed by this Honorable Body to determine what, if any, changes could be made to the then decade's old charter. The Commission met routinely over the course of a year and published recommended changes to the Charter, many of which sought to streamline processes or modernize the County's operations. To date, many of the proposed changes have been adopted, but a various substantive changes have evaded adoption. One major proposal by the Charter Review Commission was to replace the County's four, part-time Coroners with a single full-time Medical Examiner. This change would modernize death investigations in the County, a change that many other counties have adopted over the years.

SECTION II

Article 19 of the Albany County Charter is hereby repealed entirely.

Article 9: Department of Health is hereby amended by adding the following subsections:

Section 905: Office of Medical Examiner; Appointment; Qualifications

- (a) There shall be an Office of Medical Examiner, a division of the Albany County Department of Health. The Office shall be headed by a Chief Medical Examiner who shall be appointed by the County Executive for a six-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. At the time of their appointment, and throughout their appointment, the Medical Examiner shall be and remain duly licensed and entitled to practice medicine in the State of New York and shall have an expertise in forensic pathology and such other qualifications for the responsibilities of the Office as determined by the Commissioner of Health. Notwithstanding the provisions of Public Officer's Law Section 38 and County Law Section 400, if the Office of Chief Medical Examiner becomes vacant other

than by expiration of term, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the County Executive for a five-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature.

- (b) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, shall appoint a Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, who shall also be a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York. In addition to such other duties as may be assigned by the Chief Medical Examiner, the Chief Deputy Medical Examiner shall possess the powers and perform the duties of the Medical Examiner during his absence or inability to act.
- (c) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, may, in conformity with the rules and regulations applicable to the civil service, appoint such forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners as may be authorized by the County Legislature. Forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners shall assist the Chief Medical Examiner in the conduct of investigations and the discharge of his other duties and responsibilities; shall conduct tests and examinations and furnish forensic, medical, investigative and technical services; and shall possess such qualifications and perform such other duties as may be determined by the Chief Medical Examiner.

SECTION III. 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 IV. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State if it is approved by a affirmative vote of the qualified electors of the County of Albany voting upon a proposition for its approval at the next general election in conformity with the provisions of Section 34 of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law and Section 2702 of the Albany County Charter.

LOCAL LAW NO. P FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 242 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE TO PROVIDE A LOCAL LICENSING SYSTEM FOR TOBACCO AND RELATED PRODUCTS

Introduced: 9/9/24

By: Cunningham, Willingham, McLean Lane, McLaughlin, Miller

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

SECTION I. Article Creation.

Chapter 242, Article VI, Tobacco Retail Licensing, is hereby created

SECTION II. Title

This law shall be known as the “Quit Using Inhalants & Tobacco (QUIT Act).

SECTION III. § 242-32 Legislative Intent and Purpose

In accordance with New York State Public Health Law § 1399-ii, the County of Albany intends to limit the concentration of smoke shops and tobacco retailers within the County. The regulations herein are intended to further the goals of New York State's tobacco use prevention and control program, due to the known adverse impacts of tobacco and nicotine use. In furtherance of the state's goals, the County finds that:

- a. Smoke shop and tobacco retailer density is associated with higher rates of tobacco use in both youth and adult populations; and
- b. Adolescent brains are vulnerable to the effects of nicotine and to nicotine dependency; and
- c. Tobacco use leads to preventable death and disease in New York State; and
- d. The County of Albany has a substantial interest in reducing the number of individuals of all ages who use cigarettes and other tobacco products, and a particular interest in protecting adolescents from tobacco dependence and the illnesses and premature death associated with tobacco use, and
- e. The restriction of increasing smoke shop and tobacco retailer density will reduce the availability of nicotine products to residents, and in particular young residents, thus reducing risk to the public's health, safety, and wellbeing.

SECTION IV. § 242-33 Authority

This article is enacted by the Albany County Legislature pursuant to its authority to adopt local laws under the New York State Constitution Article IX and Municipal Home Rule Law § 10.

SECTION V. § 242-34 Definitions

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

Accessory: as defined in Chapter 242 §242-20.

Component or Part: as defined in Chapter 242 §242-20.

Constituent: An ingredient, substance, chemical, or compound, other than tobacco, water, reconstituted tobacco sheet, or propylene glycol or vegetable glycerin that is added by the manufacturer to a covered product during the processing, manufacture, or packing of the covered product.

Covered Product: A tobacco product, electronic aerosol delivery system, or another or product regulated by Article 13-F of the Public Health Law.

Department: as defined in Chapter 242 §242-20.

Commissioner: as defined in Chapter 242 §242-20.

Electronic Aerosol Delivery System: as defined in Chapter 242 §242-20.

New Tobacco Retail License: a tobacco retail license that is not a renewed tobacco retail license.

Person: as defined in Chapter 242 §242-3

Renewed Tobacco Retail License: A tobacco retail license issued to an applicant for the same location at which the applicant possessed a valid tobacco retail license during the previous 12 months.

Sell: Shall mean to sell, exchange, give or dispose of to another or offer to or agree to do the same.

School: A public or independent kindergarten, elementary, middle, junior high, or high school.

Tobacco Product: as defined in Chapter 242 §242-20

Tobacco Retailer: A retailer licensed pursuant to this chapter.

Tobacco Retail License: A license issued pursuant to Chapter 242 §242-35 by the Department to a person to engage in the retail sale in the County of Albany of a covered product.

SECTION VI. §242-35 Tobacco Retail License Required.

- a. No person shall sell, offer for sale, or permit the sale of a covered product by retail within the County of Albany without a valid tobacco retail license. A tobacco retail license is not required for a wholesale dealer who sells products to retail dealers for the purpose of resale only and does not sell a covered product directly to consumers.
- b. Notwithstanding the requirements set forth in Subsection A, this chapter shall not apply to registered organizations pursuant to § 3364 of the Public Health Law.
- c. A tobacco retail license issued pursuant to this chapter is nontransferable and non-assignable and valid only for the applicant and the specific address indicated on the tobacco retail license. A separate tobacco retail license is required for each address where a covered product is sold or offered for sale. A change in business ownership or business address requires a new tobacco retail license.

SECTION VII. §242-36 License Application and Application Fee

- a. An application for a new tobacco retail license or a renewed tobacco retail license shall be submitted to the Department in writing upon a form provided by the Department and shall contain information as required by the Department. The Department may require the forms to be signed and verified by the applicant or an authorized agent thereof.
- b. Each application for a tobacco retail license shall be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of \$240.
- c. Upon the receipt of a completed application for a tobacco retail license and the application fee required by Subsection B, the Department may inspect the location at which sales of a covered product are to be permitted. The Department may ask the applicant to provide additional information that is reasonably related to the determination of whether a tobacco retail license may issue.

SECTION VIII. §242-37 Issuance of Licenses

- a. No tobacco retail license shall be issued to a seller of a covered product that is not in a fixed, permanent location.

- b. The issuance of a tobacco retail license pursuant to this chapter is done in the Department's discretion and shall not confer upon licensee any property rights in the continued possession of the license.
- c. The Department shall collect from the applicant the tobacco retail license fee prescribed by §242-36(b); §242-38(b) prior to issuing a tobacco retail license.
- d. The Department may refuse to issue a tobacco retail license to an applicant if it finds that one or more of the following bases for denial exists:
 - 1. The information presented in the application is incomplete, inaccurate, false, or misleading;
 - 2. The fee for the application has not been paid as required;
 - 3. The applicant does not possess a valid certificate of registration required by state or federal law for the sale of a covered product;
 - 4. The Department has previously revoked a tobacco retail license issued under this chapter to the applicant;
 - 5. The Department has previously revoked a tobacco retail license issued under this chapter for the same address or location;
 - 6. The applicant has been found by a court of law or administrative body to have violated a federal, state, or local law pertaining to:
 - i. Trafficking in contraband tobacco products or illegal drugs;
 - ii. The payment or collection of taxes on a covered product
 - iii. The display of a covered product or of health warnings pertaining to a covered product; or
 - iv. The sale of a covered product.
 - 7. The applicant has not paid to the Count of Albany outstanding fees, fines, penalties, or other charges owed to the Count of Albany, including the fee for the tobacco retail license required by §242-36(b); §242-389(b)§ 114-7; or
 - 8. The Department determines, in accordance with written criteria established to further the purposes of this chapter, that the applicant is otherwise not fit to hold a tobacco retail license.

SECTION IX. §242-38 License Term and Annual Fee

- a. A tobacco retail license issued pursuant to this chapter shall be valid for no more than one year and shall expire on December 31. As set forth in § 114-12 revocation of licenses, a tobacco retail license may be revoked for cause by the Department prior to its expiration.
- b. The tobacco retailer shall pay an annual tobacco retail license fee of \$240.
- c. The Director may discount the tobacco retail license fee required by §242-36(b); §242-38(b) for an application received within six months of the expiration date.

SECTION X: §242-39 Display of License

- a. A tobacco retail license issued pursuant to this chapter shall be conspicuously displayed at the location where a covered product is sold so that it is readily visible to customers.
- b. Selling, offering for sale, or permitting the sale of a covered product without a valid tobacco retail license displayed in accordance with Subsection (a) constitutes a violation of this chapter.

SECTION XI: §242-40 Number of Licenses Issued

- a. For the first year after the effective date of this chapter, the Department shall accept an application for a tobacco retail license only from an applicant for the same location at which the applicant possessed a valid certificate of registration as a tobacco retail dealer or electronic aerosol delivery system (vapor) products dealer from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance 180 days prior to the effective date of this chapter.
- b. Beginning one year after the effective date of this chapter, the Department shall issue a renewed tobacco retail license to eligible applicants.
- c. Thereafter, the Department shall issue only one new tobacco retail license for every two tobacco retail licenses that are not renewed, until a floor of one hundred fifty (150) is reached. Thereafter, the Department shall evaluate the effect of this local law on reducing tobacco usage by reducing the density of tobacco retailers.
- d. Whenever the number of valid applications for a new tobacco retail license exceeds the maximum number of new tobacco retail licenses that may be issued pursuant to this section, the Department shall grant new tobacco retail licenses using the following priorities:
 - 1. A new tobacco retail license shall be granted, first, to an applicant for an establishment whose property line is located 1,000 feet or more from the nearest point of the property line of a school who holds but does not seek to renew a valid tobacco retail license for an establishment whose property line is within 1,000 feet of the nearest point of the property line of a school. If there are more valid applications from these applicants than the number of available new tobacco retail licenses, the new tobacco retail license(s) shall be granted to these applicants by lottery;
 - 2. A new tobacco retail license shall be granted, second, to an applicant whose property line is located 1,000 feet or more from the nearest point of the property line of a school. If there are more valid applications from these applicants than the number of available new tobacco retail licenses, the new tobacco retail license(s) shall be granted to these applicants by lottery;
 - 3. A new tobacco retail license shall be granted, third, to an applicant who will sell a covered product at an establishment where the operator restricts entry to persons 21 years and older. If there are more valid applications from these applicants than the number of available new

tobacco retail licenses, the new tobacco retail license(s) shall be granted to these applicants by lottery;

4. Any remaining new tobacco retail licenses shall be granted to applicants by lottery.

SECTION XII: §242-41 Sales of Electronic Aerosol Delivery Systems

No tobacco retailer whose property line is located within 1,000 feet of the nearest point of the property line of a school shall distribute without charge, sell, offer for sale, or possess with intent to sell an electronic aerosol delivery system, commonly known as vapor products or electronic cigarettes.

SECTION XIII: §242-42 Violation and Penalties; Enforcement

- a. The Department or its authorized designee(s) shall enforce the provisions of this chapter. The Department may conduct periodic inspections to ensure compliance with this chapter.
- b. In addition to the penalties provided for in § 114-12, a person found to be in violation of this chapter shall be liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for the first violation, not more than \$750 for the second violation within a two-year period, and not more than \$1,000 for the third and each subsequent violation within a two-year period, or as determined by the Director. Each day on which a violation occurs shall be considered a separate and distinct violation.

SECTION XIV. § 242-43 Revocation of Licenses

- a. The Department may suspend or revoke a tobacco retail license issued pursuant to this chapter for violations of the terms and conditions of this chapter or for violation of a federal, state, or local law or regulation pertaining to:
 1. Trafficking a contraband covered product or illegal drug;
 2. The payment or collection of taxes on a covered product;
 3. The display of a covered product or of health warnings pertaining to a covered product; or
 4. The sale of a covered product.
- b. The Department may revoke a tobacco retail license if the Department finds that one or more of the bases for denial of a license under §242-37 existed at the time application was made or at any time before the license issued.

SECTION XV. §242-44 Rules and Regulations

The Department may issue and amend rules, regulations, standards, guidelines, or conditions to implement and enforce this chapter.

SECTION XVI. Severability

If any part or provision of this local law, or the application thereof to any individual or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of the local law shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in force and effect.

SECTION XVII. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect on January 1, 2025 and its filing with the Secretary of State as required by §27 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

Referred to Law and Health Committees – 9/9/24

LOCAL LAW NO. “T” FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 288 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

Introduced: 12/2/24

By Fein, Laurilliard, A. Joyce and Miller:

A local law amending Chapter 288 of the Albany County Code, entitled **Vehicles**, to create Article IV of such Chapter, entitled **Minimum Passing Distance Requirements for Motor Vehicles**, to establish a minimum passing distance for motor vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED by the Albany County Legislature as follows:

Section 1. Article Creation.

Chapter 288, Article IV, **Minimum Passing Distance Requirements for Motor Vehicles**, is hereby created.

Section 2. §288-26, Title.

This local law shall be known as the “Albany County Safe Passing Law.”

Section 3. § 288-27, Legislative Intent.

The Albany County Legislature recognizes that bicyclists, pedestrians, and other vulnerable road users often need to share roadways with motor vehicles out of necessity.

The Legislature also acknowledges that in these situations, vulnerable road users are susceptible to the actions of motor vehicle operators who can pose a threat to their health and safety if passing too closely.

Therefore, this Legislature finds it necessary to establish a minimum passing distance for motor vehicles approaching or passing vulnerable road users.

Section 4. § 288-28, Vulnerable Road User.

“Vulnerable road user” means any pedestrian; person operating a wheelchair or other personal mobility device regardless of motorization; person operating a bicycle or other non-motorized mode of transportation such as roller skates, rollerblades, roller skis, skateboard, longboard, or unicycle; operator of roadway

construction, repair, or maintenance equipment; utility worker; construction worker; roadside assistance worker; operator of agricultural equipment; person riding, driving, or herding an animal; law enforcement officer; firefighter; emergency medical technician; or first responder.

Section 5. § 288-29, Minimum Distance Requirements for Motor Vehicles.

The operator of a motor vehicle that is approaching or passing vulnerable road user shall do so at a distance of at least three feet until safely clear thereof. The three-foot distance requirement shall not apply on roads with clearly-marked bicycle lanes as defined by New York Vehicle and Traffic Law § 102-a.

Section 6. § 288-30, Compliance with New York Vehicle and Traffic Law.

The operator of a motor vehicle that is approaching or passing a vulnerable road user shall not violate New York Vehicle and Traffic Law §§ 1122-a, 1124, 1125, 1126, or any other section pertaining to overtaking and passing.

Section 7. § 288-31, Penalties.

1. Any person committing the above-referenced offense shall be guilty of a violation and subject to a fine not to exceed \$225 for a first offense, \$325 for a second offense and \$425 for any third or subsequent offense(s).
2. This section does not preclude a person from being charged with, convicted of, or punished for any other violation of law.

Section 8. § 288-32, Applicability.

This law shall apply to all actions occurring on or after the effective date.

Section 9. § 288-33, Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, subdivision, or other part of this local law or its application shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of the local law which shall remain in full force and effect except as limited by such order or judgment.

Section 10. § 288-34, 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 11. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect immediately following its filing with the Office of the Secretary of State.

Referred to Law and Public Safety Committees – 12/02/24

LOCAL LAW NO. “U” FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN THE SALARY OF A COUNTY OFFICER DURING THEIR TERM OF OFFICE

Introduced: 12/2/24

By Cunningham:

PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 24 AND 27 OF THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Albany as follows:

SECTION I.

By Local Law No. 7 for 2024, this Honorable Body provided for the creation of the position of Deputy Chairperson for the Albany County Legislature. Compensation commensurate with the duties of the Deputy Chairperson is warranted.

SECTION II.

The annual salary of the Deputy Chairperson shall be \$37,405 effective January 1, 2025.

SECTION III.

If any clause, sentence or provision of this local law or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of the provisions of this local law or the application thereof to other persons and circumstances.

SECTION IV.

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 V.

This Local Law is adopted subject to permissive referendum pursuant to Section 24 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

LOCAL LAW “B” FOR 2025

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER ____ OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, SETTING FORTH REQUIREMENTS THAT THE ALBANY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NOTIFY LOCAL OFFICIALS REGARDING ELEVATED CONTAMINANT LEVELS FOUND IN DRINKING WATER IN ALBANY COUNTY

Introduced: 3/10/25

By Cunningham, Kuhn, Reinhardt, Miller, Feeney, Ricard, Plotsky, Lekakis, Perlee, Lockart, Alix, Beston, Cleary, Ethier, Gillespie, Lane, Laurilliard, McLaughlin, Pedo, Rosano, Whale and Willingham:

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

Section 1. Article Creation.

Chapter ____, Article ____, _____, is hereby created.

Section 2. § ____ -- Legislative Purpose and Intent.

This legislation is to ensure that when the Albany County Department of Health has determined, either through its own testing or from notice provided by the State of New York or any federal agency, that elevated levels of contaminants found in soil or water, including but not limited to drinking water, are a threat to public health, that the Department of Health shall provide notice to the appropriate local officials and municipalities.

Section 2. § ____ - Definition of Terms.

“Albany County” – shall mean the geographic boundaries of the County of Albany, New York.

“Contaminants” – shall mean any and all amounts of chemicals, debris, bacteria, viruses, or any other such materials not native or naturally occurring in the water supply which in increased amounts could constitute a threat to public health.

“Elevated Levels” – shall mean any amount of contaminants which are in excess of limits established either by the Albany County Department of Health, or by those State of New York or federal agencies qualified to report to the Department of Health, and which at such levels represent a threat to public health.

“Local Representatives” – shall mean those elected officials responsible to the People of Albany County, including but not limited to County Legislator, and the Mayor, Supervisor, Councilmember, Board Member or Trustee of any City, Town or Village within Albany County.

“Threat to Public Health” – shall mean a determination by the Albany County Department of Health that consumption of drinking water with sufficient contaminants as to constitute a danger to individual health and wellbeing of the People of Albany County.

Section 3. § ____ - Drinking Water Notification Requirements.

A. Within two days of the Albany County Department of Health determining, either through its own testing methods or from notice provided by the State of New York or any federal agency, that elevated levels of contaminants have been found that could impact soil or water, including but not limited to drinking water, and that pose a threat to public health, the Department of Health shall provide written notice to local representatives as follows:

- 1) The Albany County Executive; and
- 2) The Albany County Legislator(s) who represents the legislative district(s) affected by the elevated levels of contaminants; and
- 3) The Albany County Legislator(s) who represents the legislative district(s) bordering the district(s) affected by the elevated levels of contaminants; and
- 4) Each City, Town, or Village Mayor or Supervisor who represents the municipality affected by the elevated levels of contaminants; and
- 5) Each City, Town, or Village Mayor or Supervisor who represents the bordering municipality affected by the elevated levels of contaminants; and
- 6) Each City, Town, or Village Council or Board member who represents the municipality affected by the elevated levels of contaminants; and
- 7) Each City, Town, or Village Council or Board member who represents the bordering municipality affected by the elevated levels of contaminants.

B. All notifications pursuant to this Section shall be sent via regular mail, with an electronic mail following which shall contain a digital version or electronic link to the notification along with all accompanying documents and information.

Section 4. § ____ - Authority to Promulgate Appropriate Rules and Regulations.

The Albany County Department of Health is hereby authorized and empowered to promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the implementation of this Local Law. Within 90 days of the adoption of this Local Law, the Department of Health shall report to the Albany County Legislature and the Albany County Executive with said rules and regulations, or, in the event that such rules and regulations are not complete at such time, shall provide a status report of the reasons for such delay, and additionally, shall continue to report to both the County Legislature and County Executive every 30 days thereafter with an update until such rules and regulations are completed.

Section 5. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm, corporation 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 of the Local Law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of the Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm, corporation or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order may be rendered.

Section 6. 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 7. Effective Date.

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

Referred to Law and Health Committees – 3/10/25

LOCAL LAW NO. “Q” FOR 2024

**A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK CREATING
CHAPTER ____ OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE, REGARDING THE
CREATION OF THE ALBANY COUNTY OFFICE OF ASSIGNED COUNSEL**

Introduced: 10/15/24

By: Kuhn

A LOCAL LAW amending the Laws of Albany County by adding a new Chapter XXX relating to the creation of the Albany County Office of Assigned Counsel.

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

Section 1. A new Chapter is hereby added to the Laws of Albany County to read as follows:

Chapter XXX

ALBANY COUNTY OFFICE OF ASSIGNED COUNSEL

Sec. XXX—101. Short Title

Sec. XXX—102. Purpose

Sec. XXX—103. Definitions

Sec. XXX—104. Board of Directors, Membership

Sec. XXX—105. Board of Directors, Powers and Duties

Sec. XXX—106. Assigned Counsel Administrator, Appointment, Term.

Sec. XXX—107. Operation of Program

Sec. XXX—108. Rules and Regulations

Sec. XXX---109. Severability

Sec. XXX—101. Short Title.

This Chapter shall be known as and cited as “The Albany County Office of Assigned Counsel.”

Sec. XXX—102. Establishment, Purpose.

Pursuant to New York State County Law Article 18-B, §722(3)(a)(b) there shall be an Office of Assigned Counsel, which shall operate as an independent office separate from the Albany County Office of the Public Defender and the Albany

County Office of the Alternate Public Defender. The purpose of said office is to maintain an Assigned Counsel Program in the County by establishing protocols and policies for assigning attorneys to indigent clients in both family court and the criminal court(s) to ensure the provision of professional, skilled, ethical and client-centered legal representation of such indigent clients. The Assigned Counsel Program shall operate in compliance with the Standards for establishing and Administering Assigned Counsel Programs promulgated by the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services pursuant to New York State Executive Law §832 (the “Standards”).

Further, the development and creation of this plan is done in conjunction with the recent provision of funding dedicated to indigent defense provided by the State of New York via the Hurrell-Herring Settlement. This Plan shall remain in force and effect unless and until those resources are extinguished.

Sec. XXX—103. Definitions

- a. Administrator—the person who administers the Assigned Counsel Program in the County and ensures that all appropriate Standards are met;
- b. Assigned Counsel—A private attorney or attorneys, other than an attorney or attorneys employed by the Public or Alternate Public Defender’s Offices, paid by the government at an hourly rate established under New York State County Law Article 18-B to represent eligible clients;
- c. Assigned Counsel Program—A private attorney or attorneys, other than an attorney or attorneys employed by Public or Alternate Public Defender’s Office(s), paid by the government at an hourly rate established under New York State County Law 18-B to represent eligible clients;
- d. Clients—Indigent persons entitled to mandated representation in criminal defense and family law matters under New York State County Law 18-B;
- e. County—The County of Albany;
- f. Independent—Freedom from improper influence and control by any outside entity to ensure that the Assigned Counsel Program and assigned counsel make decisions based solely on the interests of their clients;

- g. Indigent—Individual(s) who do not possess the means to adequately finance their own defense. Indigent status will be determined in accordance with the applicable standards set by the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services;
- h. Judge(s)—Judges, magistrates, and any other persons with adjudicative powers over clients eligible for mandated representation;
- i. Mandated Representation—Government-funded legal representation that is constitutionally or statutorily required including, but not limited to, representation in criminal matters pursuant to New York State County Law Article 18-B, family court proceedings, and appellate representation;
- j. Mentor(s), Mentoring Attorney(s), Resource Attorney(s)—An experienced attorney who provides training, consultation, and guidance to other attorneys on the Panel;
- k. Office of the Assigned Counsel Program—The office responsible for administering the Assigned Counsel program in Albany County;
- l. Panel—The Assigned Counsel Program’s list of attorneys eligible to receive assignments in the County, which should be limited to those in good standing and with the requisite skills and training. The Assigned Counsel Program shall develop regulations and requirements for representation that comport with applicable guidelines provided by the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services.
- m. Panel Attorney—An attorney who has been evaluated by the Albany County Assigned Counsel Program, and is rendering services to eligible persons in family and criminal court(s);
- n. Quality Representation—Representation of clients in a professional, skilled, ethical and client-centered manner, consistent with best practices as defined by the Standards;
- o. Standards—Standards for Establishing and Administering Assigned Counsel Programs in New York State promulgated by the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services pursuant to New York State Executive Law §832;
- p. Supervising Attorney—An attorney who assists the Administrator in the execution of the tasks necessary to operate the Assigned Counsel Program and

ensure that its responsibilities are executed in compliance with the Standards and all other applicable law;

- q. Vouchers—Document(s) supplied by a Panel Attorney which details an assigned counsel matter, the fees for representation and disbursements that were incurred by a Panel Attorney during their representation of an indigent client. Completed and accurate Vouchers are necessary in order to secure payment.

Sec. XXX-104. Assigned Counsel Board of Directors

- a. There shall be an Assigned Counsel Board of Directors, [of whom three (3) shall be appointed by the County Executive, one (1) shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the County Legislature, and one (1) shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Albany County Legislature.] which shall consist of five (5) members. Three (3) members shall be appointed by the County Executive, one (1) shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Albany County Legislature, and one (1) shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Albany County Legislature. The Board shall consist of [five (5) members chosen in accordance with] the following:
 - (i) One (1) member [shall be] chosen by the County Executive shall be from among the individuals recommended to the Board of Directors by the Albany County Bar Association [which shall be submitted to the Albany County Executive];
 - (ii) One (1) member [shall be] chosen by the County Executive shall be an attorney who actively practices criminal or family law;
 - (iii) One (1) member chosen by the County Executive shall be a member of the general public who is not a member of the legal profession;
 - (iv) One (1) member [shall be] chosen by the Majority Leader shall be a former assigned counsel attorney who has practiced family law; and
 - (v) One (1) member [shall be] chosen by the Chairperson of the Legislature who shall be a former assigned counsel attorney who has practiced criminal law;
 - (vi) One (1) member shall be the Chairperson of the Law Committee of the Albany County Legislature, who shall serve as an *ex officio*, non-voting member of the Board.

Upon making their formal recommendation, the County Executive, the Chairperson of the Legislature and the Majority Leader shall notify each of the

respective offices regarding their appointments. Each appointment shall be filed with the Clerk of the Albany County Legislature within forty-five (45) days of their recommendation.

[The Albany County Legislature shall hold a vote regarding the confirmation of the proposed appointees to the Assigned Counsel Board of Directors within forty-five (45) days of receiving the County Executive's appointments.]

- b. When a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Assigned Counsel Board of Directors, the vacancy shall, within [sixty (60)] forty-five (45) days, be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment.
- c. The majority of the Board's members shall be attorneys who are not judges. No member of the board of Directors shall hold a position as a prosecutor, a member of law enforcement or any other government official whose duties may be adversarial to clients receiving mandated representation.
- d. There shall be a Chair of the Board of Directors. Such individual shall be chosen from among the members of the Board of Directors upon a majority vote. The Chair shall serve for a two (2) year term, but in no instance shall said term extend beyond the member's term of appointment as a member of the Board of Directors. No member shall be eligible to serve as Chair for consecutive terms.
- e. The members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, except as indicated below, beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31 of the following calendar year, terms for the inaugural Board of Directors shall be as follows:
 - a. The member [recommended] appointed by the County Executive, as recommended by the Albany County Bar Association shall serve from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025;
 - b. The member [recommended] appointed by the County Executive who actively practices criminal or family law shall serve from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026;
 - c. The member appointed by the County Executive who is a member of the general public and not a member of the legal profession shall serve from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025;
 - d. The member [recommended] appointed by the Majority Leader of the Legislature shall serve from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; and,

- e. The member [recommended] appointed by the Chairperson of the Legislature shall serve from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

No person shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors for more than three (3) consecutive two (2) year terms. Members of the Board of Directors shall continue to serve until their successors have been [approved] appointed.

- f. Any individual chosen to fill a vacancy created otherwise than by expiration of a term shall be appointed in the same manner in which their successor was appointed and for the unexpired term of the member whom he or she is to succeed.
- g. In all instances, the Board of Directors shall require an affirmative vote of at least three (3) members of the Board to take any official action, or to exercise any of the powers and duties authorized by this law.
- h. No member of the Board of Directors shall be compensated for the services to be provided but may be reimbursed for any reasonable expenses that may be incurred in the conduct of their official duties of such members.

Sec. XXX—105. Board of Directors, powers and duties

The Board of Directors shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. Provide guidance and advice on the operation of the Assigned Counsel Program in the County;
- b. Appoint the Assigned Counsel Program Administrator in consultation with the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services and subject to approval by the Albany County Executive and confirmation of the Albany County Legislature;
- c. Study and review the existing program under Article 18-B of the New York State County Law for provisions of indigent representation in the courts and recommend any appropriate modifications to the program;
- d. Establish and implement uniform rules and regulations in compliance with the Standards for creation and administration of the Assigned Counsel Program to enable the effective provision of indigent legal services in Albany County;

- e. Review the annual Budget request from the Assigned Counsel Program Administrator for submission to the Albany County Commissioner of Management and Budget in compliance with County budgetary law and procedures;
- f. Consult with the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services, the Judiciary, and community groups regarding the provisions of indigent legal services in the County;
- g. Prepare and review an Annual Report for submission to the County Executive and County Legislature by December 31st of each year regarding the services provided by the Assigned Counsel Program including but not limited to: numbers and types of cases, attorney caseloads, and Office expenditures;
- h. Meet on at least a biannual basis in order to ensure that all the responsibilities and duties of the Assigned Counsel Program are executed in a prompt and efficient manner.

Sec. XXX—106. Assigned Counsel Program Administrator; appointment, qualifications, term

- a. The Board of Directors shall [nominate] appoint an Assigned Counsel Program Administrator subject to the approval of the Albany County Executive and confirmation by the Albany County Legislature. Any person so nominated shall be an attorney in good standing, licensed in State of New York, possess administrative experience, be well-versed in Criminal and/or Family law matters, and demonstrate integrity and commitment to quality representation of indigent clients;
- b. The Administrator shall serve full-time and shall not engage in the private practice of law during their appointment.
- c. The Administrator shall serve a term of two (2) years subject to [reappointment] another nomination at the discretion of the Board of Directors and the approval of the County Executive [subject to the] and confirmation by the Albany County Legislature.
- d. [The Administrator may be removed for cause by the Board of Directors, after notice and opportunity to be heard pursuant to procedures established by the

Board of Directors. The Administrator serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors and the Albany County Executive pursuant to §2507 of the Albany County Charter.] The Administrator serves pursuant to §2507 of the Albany County Charter, and may be removed for cause , after notice and opportunity to be heard in compliance with procedures established by the Board of Directors.

Sec. XXX—107. Assigned Counsel Program Administrator; Powers and Duties.

- a. The Administrator shall be the administrative head of the office, and shall have the duty to ensure to the extent possible that all indigent persons are provided with quality legal representation as soon as feasible after arrest, detention or requires for counsel in a criminal case and at the earliest possible stage of a state intervention case in family court;
- b. Develop and monitor program policies, standards, and operational procedures of the Assigned Counsel Program regarding qualifications for appointment to each panel, recruitment of attorneys to serve on each panel, limitations on attorney caseloads, guidelines for administrative responsibilities of panel attorneys and supervision and review of attorney caseloads and quality of legal representation;
- c. Maintain panels of attorneys eligible to receive assignments for indigent representations based upon sufficient knowledge and experience. These panels are required to be subdivided into categories commensurate with the experience of each respective panel attorney and consistent with the Standards. The Administrator shall be responsible for establishing the requirements and conditions necessary for attorneys to be assigned more complex matters.
- d. Establish qualifications and standards for certification of attorneys to become members of the panels. All determinations on applications for certification to the panels shall be made by the Assigned Counsel Program Administrator. Any attorney aggrieved by the determination of the Administrator may seek review of the determination by the Board of Directors.
- e. Establish procedures and standards for a recertification program. Upon review of recertification applications and any other relevant information provided, the Assigned Counsel Administrator shall make determinations regarding all applications. All determinations regarding applications for recertification to the panels shall be made by the Administrator. Any Attorney

aggrieved by the determination of the Administrator may seek review of the determination by the Board of Directors.

- f. Ensure adequate participation on the panels and that training for assigned counsel is provided.
- g. Oversee the rotation and coordination of Panel Attorneys, implement a fair and prompt process for assignment of Panel Attorneys to all matters, ensure that the ability, training and experience of panel attorneys are matched to the complexity of the cases to which they are assigned, and timely assignments of counsel to indigent clients as soon as feasible after arrest, detention or requires for counsel in a criminal case and at the earliest possible stage of a state intervention case in family court;
- h. Review all vouchers for services provided through the Assigned Counsel Program including attorney vouchers to ensure proper payment for services performed;
- i. Prepare any and all Budget proposal for the Office of the Assigned Counsel Program for review by the Board of Directors and County Department pursuant to County law and policy.
- j. Maintain records of accounts and expenditures of the Office of Assigned Counsel Program in compliance with all applicable law and County policy;
- k. Serve as an information resource to the Board of Directors and the attorneys on each assigned counsel panel;
- l. Establish procedures for submission, investigation, and resolution of complaints from clients, client family members, co-counsel, opposing counsel, and the judiciary regarding legal representation;
- m. Conduct a periodic evaluation and review of the Assigned Counsel Program budget and communicate fiscal and programmatic needs of the program to the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services to obtain state funding;
- n. Prepare contracts with appropriate legal organizations such as the Albany County Bar Association and other Assigned Counsel Programs to perform certain services required by the Assigned Counsel Program enumerated in this Chapter in compliance with all legal and budgetary mandates;

- o. Attend meeting(s) of the Board of Directors and provide the annual reports as requested by the Board of Directors on the Assigned Counsel Program which shall include number of cases assigned, attorneys assigned, services provided to the Panels and office expenditures;
- p. Ensure compliance with County Law, policies, and procedures;
- q. Approve requests by panel attorneys of use of funding issued by the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services for any non-attorney professional services such as investigators, expert witnesses, social workers, interpreters, mental health, supervised visitation or any other professional services as required to provide quality representation.
- r. Remove or suspend for a definite period of time, an attorney from the panel for cause, upon notice and opportunity to be heard, subject to review by the Board of Directors pursuant to procedures established by the Assigned Counsel Program.
- s. Make applications for other sources of state and federal funding to meet the budgetary and programmatic needs of the Assigned Counsel Program;
- t. Any other duties necessary to carry out the purposes of this Chapter.

Sec. XXX—108. Assignment of Defense Counsel

- a. Order of Assignment—The Albany County Public Defender’s Office has the primary responsibility for providing services for indigent defense/representation matter. In the event that the Albany County Public Defender’s Office is determined to have a conflict, this responsibility will pass to the Albany County Alternate Public Defender’s Office. The Albany County Alternate Public Defender’s Office has the secondary responsibility for indigent defense/representation matters. If the Alternate Public Defender’s Office is determined to have a conflict, then the Assigned Counsel Program will have the responsibility to assign counsel to an indigent person pursuant to the provisions of the Plan. The Court may, utilizing its inherent powers, appoint an attorney from the Assigned Counsel Program’s list of Panel Attorneys to a case involving an indigent client if circumstances require an immediate appointment, and the Court is unable to contact the Assigned Counsel Program to make such an appointment. If the Court makes such an appointment, they shall notify the Assigned Counsel Program within two (2) days of the assignment. Such notification shall be in a manner which ensures that the

Assigned Counsel Program is informed of the Court's appointment as soon as practicable..

- b. Counsel at First Appearance (CAFA) Program--The Albany County Public Defender's Office and Alternate Public Defender's Office administer a program to provide indigent people counsel at first appearance and arraignment. In the event that the Public Defender's Office and Alternate Public Defender's Office cannot provide representation to an eligible indigent person, the Court may assign a Panel Attorney to represent the eligible indigent person from a list provided by the Assigned Counsel Program.
- c. Acceptance—Attorneys may be asked to accept assignment in emergencies or on very short notice. While acceptance of such assignments is not required, it is strongly encouraged.
- d. Non-Criminal Matters—The Administrator shall assign counsel to any person legally entitled to representation in family court or other matters constitutionally or statutorily eligible for representation. The Administrator may assign counsel at earliest stage possible. The Assigned Counsel Administrator shall develop rules and regulations for the assignment of counsel to indigents in all other legally eligible matters.
- e. Manner of Assignment—The Administrator shall make assignment on a rotating basis from a list of all eligible participating attorneys. In assigning counsel, due regard shall be given to the following factors: (1) Potential conflict(s) of interest; (2) Geographic proximity; (3) Prior representation (continuity of counsel); (4) Attorney caseload; and (5) Applicable expertise and experience with the type of case involved.
- f. Second Chair, Resource Attorneys—Pursuant to the rules and regulations developed by the Assigned Counsel Program, the Administrator may require (or Panel Attorneys may request) that the Panel Attorney consult a Resource Attorney or 2nd Chair Attorney as appropriate.
- g. Amendments—The Assigned Counsel Program may, with a majority vote of the Board of Directors and the written approval of the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services, make such amendments to this assignment process as are necessary and proper .

Sec. XXX—109. Responsibilities of Assigned Counsel Program

- a. The Assigned Counsel Program shall ensure that Panel Attorneys have access to non-attorney professional services such as investigative, expert witnesses, social workers, interpreters, mental health professionals, supervised visitation or any other professional service, as required, to provide quality representation;
- b. The work of assigned counsel shall be periodically evaluated based upon objective criteria developed and published by the Assigned Counsel Program;
- c. Each attorney new to the representation of an indigent client may receive a mentor to assist the attorney to provide quality representation;
- d. All assigned counsel shall have access to appropriate substantive, procedural, and practical training programs through the Albany County Bar Association and other organizations that provide legal training as well as Resource Attorneys who are available for private consultation on case related matters;
- e. Ensure the creation of a “2nd Chair Program” for the criminal panel whereby a less experienced attorney is paired with a more knowledgeable attorney to obtain necessary trial experience;
- f. Undertake effort to ensure provision of adequate facilities for client meetings, equipment, and legal research programs for Panel Attorneys. The Office of the Assigned Counsel Program may work in conjunction with the Albany County Bar Association and County of Albany to provide these services;
- g. Develop appropriate resources for Panel Attorneys who may be handling complex litigation including matters requiring forensic expertise;
- h. Ensure that any attorney seeking appointment to the Panel through initial certification or recertification carries professional liability insurance.

Sec. XXX—110. Rules and Regulations

The Administrator, with the support of the Board of Directors, shall establish rules and regulations for the administration of the Assigned Counsel Program, and update them as necessary. A copy of such rules and regulations so established shall be filed with the Clerk of the Albany County Legislature and the Office of the Albany County Attorney. [and updated as necessary]

Sec. XXX—111. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, 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 thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this ordinance, or in its applications to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgement shall be rendered.

This Local Law shall take effect _____ days after its filing with the Secretary of State.

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Referred to Law Committee – 10/15/24

Favorable Recommendation Law Committee – 12/2/24

RESOLUTION NO. 208

AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS BY THE VARIOUS OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS OF ALBANY COUNTY GOVERNMENT WITHOUT INDIVIDUAL ACTION BY THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Introduced: 5/12/25

By Feeney:

WHEREAS, Offices and Departments routinely submit grant applications each year to secure funding and support from our partners in State and Federal government, and

WHEREAS, In most instances, the grant applications require that the County Legislature adopt a resolution that authorizes the submission of said grant applications and reflects this Honorable Body's support of said grants, and

WHEREAS, This Honorable Body hereby finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the people of Albany County to authorize the submission of any and all grant applications which support the work of Albany County government, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature that this Resolution shall represent the full support of this Honorable Body for any and all grant applications submitted on behalf of the Offices and Departments of Albany County government, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall be effective immediately and end December 31, 2025, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

LOCAL LAW NO. “C” FOR 2025

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 270 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE REGARDING CREATING A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS ON EXISTING RESIDENTIAL PARCELS

Introduced: 5/12/25

By Cunningham and Willingham:

A Local Law amending Chapter 270 of the Albany County Code to create a real property tax exemption for the increase in assessed value of a parcel which has a pre-existing residential building, and where one or more accessory dwelling units has been added.

BE IT ENACTED by the Albany County Legislature as follows:

Section 1. New Article Added.

This Local Law hereby amends Chapter 270 by adding a new Article XX, titled “Real Property Exemption for Accessory Dwelling Unit(s)”

Section 2., Title.

This Local Law shall be known as the “Albany County Accessory Dwelling Unit Tax Exemption.”

Section 3. § 270-166, Legislative Purpose and Intent.

In April 2024, the New York State Legislature adopted a law, codified at Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) § 421-p, to allow local governments to adopt a partial exemption from taxes for the increase in assessed value of a parcel having a pre-existing one- or two-family residential building thereon, resulting from construction, reconstruction, alteration, and/or improvement on the parcel to create one or more accessory dwelling units.

The Albany County Legislature finds that it is in the best interests of the residents of Albany County to adopt this partial exemption for those interested in improving their properties with one or more accessory dwelling units. This exemption shall not apply to any accessory dwelling unit which is used for rentals of any period less than 29 days.

Section 4. § 270-167, Definitions.

Accessory Dwelling Unit – any attached or a detached residential dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons which is located on a lot with provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same lot as the single-family or multi-family dwelling.

Section 5. § 270-168, Exemption for the Improvement of Certain Residential Property to Add One or More Accessory Dwelling Unit(s).

Exemption Granted. Pursuant to RPTL § 421-p, there shall be a partial exemption from Albany County real property taxation for the increase in assessed value of a parcel which has a pre-existing one- or two-family residential building thereon, as a result of construction, reconstruction, alteration, or improvement on the parcel to create one or more accessory dwelling units. Such exemption shall be provided in accordance with and subject to all eligibility criteria and limitations set forth in the foregoing state law, provided however that no exemption shall be granted when the accessory dwelling unit is rented for periods of 29 days or less.

Exemption Limit. Such exemption shall be limited to two hundred thousand dollars in increased market value of the property attributable to such reconstruction, alteration, improvement, or new construction and any increase in market value greater than such amount shall not be eligible for the exemption pursuant to this local law.

Section 6. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, subdivision, or other part of this local law or its application shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of the local law which shall remain in full force and effect except as limited by such order or judgment.

Section 7. 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 8. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 209

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO “C” FOR 2025: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING CHAPTER 270 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE REGARDING CREATING A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS ON EXISTING RESIDENTIAL PARCELS

Introduced: 5/12/25

By Cunningham:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “C” for 2025, “A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING CHAPTER 270 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE REGARDING CREATING A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS ON EXISTING RESIDENTIAL PARCELS ” be held by the County Legislature in the William J. Conboy II Legislative Chambers, Albany County Courthouse, Albany, New York at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 210

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. “D” FOR 2025: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO THE ALBANY CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY

Introduced: 5/12/25

By Cunningham, Feeney, Willingham, Domalewicz, Alix, Beston, Cleary, Ethier, Gillespie, Laurilliard, Lekakis, McLaughlin, Pedo, Plotsky, Ricard, Rosano and Whalen:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “D” for 2025, “A Local Law of the County of Albany, New York Authorizing Appropriation of Funds to the Albany Convention Center Authority” to be held by the Albany County Legislature at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, 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 NO. “C” FOR 2025

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AMENDING CHAPTER 270 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CODE REGARDING CREATING A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS ON EXISTING RESIDENTIAL PARCELS

Introduced: 5/12/25

By Cunningham and Willingham:

A Local Law amending Chapter 270 of the Albany County Code to create a real property tax exemption for the increase in assessed value of a parcel which has a pre-existing residential building, and where one or more accessory dwelling units has been added.

BE IT ENACTED by the Albany County Legislature as follows:

Section 1. New Article Added.

This Local Law hereby amends Chapter 270 by adding a new Article XX, titled “Real Property Exemption for Accessory Dwelling Unit(s)”

Section 2., Title.

This Local Law shall be known as the “Albany County Accessory Dwelling Unit Tax Exemption.”

Section 3. § 270-166, Legislative Purpose and Intent.

In April 2024, the New York State Legislature adopted a law, codified at Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) § 421-p, to allow local governments to adopt a partial exemption from taxes for the increase in assessed value of a parcel having a pre-existing one- or two-family residential building thereon, resulting from construction, reconstruction, alteration, and/or improvement on the parcel to create one or more accessory dwelling units.

The Albany County Legislature finds that it is in the best interests of the residents of Albany County to adopt this partial exemption for those interested in improving their properties with one or more accessory dwelling units. This exemption shall not apply to any accessory dwelling unit which is used for rentals of any period less than 29 days.

Section 4. § 270-167, Definitions.

Accessory Dwelling Unit – any attached or a detached residential dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons which is located on a lot with provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same lot as the single-family or multi-family dwelling.

Section 5. § 270-168, Exemption for the Improvement of Certain Residential Property to Add One or More Accessory Dwelling Unit(s).

Exemption Granted. Pursuant to RPTL § 421-p, there shall be a partial exemption from Albany County real property taxation for the increase in assessed value of a parcel which has a pre-existing one- or two-family residential building thereon, as a result of construction, reconstruction, alteration, or improvement on the parcel to create one or more accessory dwelling units. Such exemption shall be provided in accordance with and subject to all eligibility criteria and limitations set forth in the foregoing state law, provided however that no exemption shall be granted when the accessory dwelling unit is rented for periods of 29 days or less.

Exemption Limit. Such exemption shall be limited to two hundred thousand dollars in increased market value of the property attributable to such reconstruction, alteration, improvement, or new construction and any increase in market value greater than such amount shall not be eligible for the exemption pursuant to this local law.

Section 6. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, subdivision, or other part of this local law or its application shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of the local law which shall remain in full force and effect except as limited by such order or judgment.

Section 7. 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 8. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

LOCAL LAW NO. “D” FOR 2025

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO THE ALBANY CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY

Introduced: 5/12/25

By Cunningham, Feeney, Willingham, Domalewicz, Alix, Beston, Cleary, Ethier, Gillespie, Laurilliard, Lekakis, McLaughlin, Pedo, Plotsky, Ricard, Rosano and Whalen:

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

Section 1. Article Creation.

Chapter 135, Article 2, **Albany County Convention Center Authority Project**, is hereby created.

Section 2. § 135-6 – Legislative Intent and Purpose.

It is declared to be the intent and purpose of this local law (the “Local Law”) to enable Albany County, New York (the “County”), as one of its public or municipal purposes, to publicize the advantages of the County and the greater Capital District Region by promoting or encouraging the undertaking of certain projects (each a “Convention Facility Project”) in the County involving the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, renovation, improvement, maintenance, equipment and/or furnishment of new and/or existing facilities for a convention center (each, a “Convention Facility”). Convention Facilities may include, but not be limited to, facilities consisting of trade exhibition, hotel accommodations, transportation infrastructure, parking, tourism, theatre facilities, retail business, commercial office space or sports facilities, including services for the operation and maintenance thereof.

Section 2. § 135-7 – Public Purposes.

The promotion or encouragement of Convention Facility Projects in the County constitutes a governmental and public purpose for the benefit of the people of the County and the greater Capital District Region for which the County shall have the power to appropriate public funds of the County for the purpose of making, and shall have the power to make advances, loans, subsidies, or contributions to the Albany Convention Center Authority (the “Authority”) for any of the following objects or

purposes, each of which is found and determined to be a governmental and public purpose of the County:

- (a) The undertaking of various Convention Facility Projects; and
- (b) The planning, design, development, siting, effectuation, financing, operation, maintenance, administration or other implementation of Convention Facility Projects.

The promotion or encouragement of any Convention Facility Project assisted by the County under this Local Law shall be deemed to be the performance of an essential governmental function by the County acting in its governmental capacity.

Section 3. § 135-8 – Procedure for Authorization.

Each advance, loan, subsidy, or contribution to be made by the County to the Authority pursuant to this Local Law shall be conditioned upon approval by the County Legislature of the terms and conditions of such advance, loan, subsidy, or contribution. Each advance, loan, subsidy, or contribution to be made by the County to the Authority pursuant to this Local Law may further be conditioned by the County Legislature upon the approval by the County Legislature of such agreement as may be necessary or convenient to accomplish the purposes of this Local Law and set forth, among other things, the terms and conditions of any such advance, loan, subsidy, or contribution. The preparation, creation, negotiation, finalization, approval and execution and delivery of any such agreement is hereby authorized by this Local Law. The County may determine pursuant to such agreement if the monies appropriated pursuant to this Local Law shall be subject to repayment by the Authority to the County and, in such event, the manner and time or times for such repayment. The approval of such agreement shall be evidenced by a resolution adopted by the County Legislature indicating its approval of the terms and conditions contained in such agreement. No such authorization shall provide for the funding of any such advance, loan, subsidy, or contribution out of proceeds of obligations issued by the County pursuant to the Local Finance Law.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm, corporation 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 of the Local Law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of the Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm, corporation or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order may be rendered.

Section 5. Inconsistent Enactments.

All ordinances, local laws and parts thereof inconsistent with this Local Law are hereby repealed.

Section 6. Effective Date

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



DANIEL P. MCCOY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

COUNTY OF ALBANY
PUBLIC DEFENDER
112 STATE STREET, 2ND FLOOR
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207
PHONE: (518) 447-7150 FAX: (518) 447-5533
www.albanycounty.com

STEPHEN W. HERRICK
PUBLIC DEFENDER

April 28, 2025

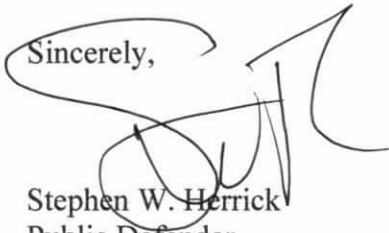
Honorable Joanne Cunningham, Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State Street, Room 710
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham:

The Public Defender's Office requests authorization to amend its 2025 budget to incorporate salary changes relating to positions funded by the Second Statewide Expansion of Hurrell-Harring grant with the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services.

If you require any supplemental information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Stephen W. Herrick
Public Defender

cc: Hon. Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader
Hon. Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel
James Curran, Minority Counsel



County of Albany

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

Legislation Text

File #: TMP-6547, Version: 1

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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

Authorizing Amendments to the Public Defender's 2025 Budget relating to the Second Statewide Expansion of Hurrell-Harring Grant with New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services

Date: 4/25/25
Department: Public Defender's Office
Attending Meeting: Stephen W. Herrick
Submitted By: Keith Bulatao
Title: Director of Accounts
Phone: 518-477-7771

Purpose of Request: Budget Amendment Enter text.

CONTRACT TERMS/CONDITIONS:

Party Names and Addresses:

NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services, A.E. Smith Building, 11th Floor, 80 South Swan Street, Albany, NY 12210

Term: (Start/end date or duration) 4/1/24 to 3/31/27
Amount/Raise Schedule/Fee: \$29,538,230.00

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Is there a Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐
Anticipated in Budget: Yes ☐ No ☒
Spreadsheet attached: Yes ☒ No ☐

Source of Funding - (Percentages)

Federal: Enter text. County: 43%
State: 57% Local: Enter text.

County Budget Accounts:

Revenue Account and Line: NA
Revenue Amount: NA
Appropriation Account and Line: Various within A.1170
Appropriation Amount: \$0 (balanced amendment)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mandated Program/Service: Yes ☐ No ☒
If Mandated, Cite Authority: Enter text.

Request for Bids / Proposals:

Competitive Bidding Exempt: Yes ☒ No ☐

of Response(s): Enter text.

of MWBE: Enter text.

of Veteran Business: Enter text.

Bond Resolution No.: Enter text.

Apprenticeship Program Yes ☐ No ☒

Previous requests for Identical or Similar Action:

Resolution/Law Number and Date: Enter text.

DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST: (state briefly why legislative action is requested)

The Public Defender's Office requests authorization to amend its 2025 budget to incorporate salary changes relating to positions funded by the Second Statewide Expansion of Hurrell-Harring grant with the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services.

APPROPRIATIONS

BUDGET LINE						DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE	UNIT COST	DEPARTMENT NAME
FUND	ORG	OBJ	PROJECT	FOR POSITIONS ONLY						
				STATE POS. CODE	POSITION CONTROL					
A	1170	12023	10000	002	150085	Deputy Public Defender	\$3,000		\$116,623	Public Defender
A	1170	12151	10000	001	150202	Family Court Caseworker	\$2,531		\$72,869	Public Defender
A	1170	12151	10000	002	150208	Family Court Caseworker	\$2,531		\$72,869	Public Defender
A	1170	12253	10000	001	150143	Director of Training	\$3,310		\$113,623	Public Defender
A	1170	14010	10000	001	150144	Felony Supervisor	\$2,046		\$113,623	Public Defender
A	1170	15023	10000	001	150046	Paralegal	\$2,060		\$59,480	Public Defender
A	1170	15023	10000	002	150086	Paralegal	\$2,060		\$59,480	Public Defender
A	1170	15023	10000	003	150210	Paralegal	\$2,060		\$59,480	Public Defender
A	1170	15024	10000	002	150170	Court Supervisor	\$2,046		\$113,623	Public Defender
A	1170	15024	10000	001	150138	Court Supervisor	\$2,046		\$113,623	Public Defender
A	1170	15025	10000	007	150040	Legal Secretary	\$2,060		\$58,195	Public Defender
A	1170	15025	10000	002	150088	Legal Secretary	\$4,120		\$56,650	Public Defender
A	1170	15025	10000	006	150100	Legal Secretary	\$4,120		\$56,650	Public Defender
A	1170	15025	10000	001	150153	Legal Secretary	\$2,060		\$58,195	Public Defender
A	1170	15025	10000	002	150154	Legal Secretary	\$2,060		\$58,195	Public Defender
A	1170	15028	10000	001	150197	Mitigation Specialist	\$1,699		\$49,440	Public Defender
A	1170	15028	10000	002	150211	Mitigation Specialist	\$1,699		\$49,440	Public Defender
A	1170	15029	10000	001	150205	Family Court Supervisor	\$2,046		\$113,623	Public Defender
A	1170	15032	10000	001	150037	Paralegal / Data Specialist	\$8,982		\$77,914	Public Defender
A	1170	16022	10000	001	150038	Data Entry Machine Operator	\$2,544		\$56,650	Public Defender
A	1170	16401	10000	003	150048	Confidential Secretary	\$5,000		\$64,018	Public Defender
A	1170	19954	10000			Enhanced Pay		\$32,617	\$249,860	Public Defender
A	1170	44046	10000			Fees For Services		\$70,510	\$157,885	Public Defender
A	1170	89030	10000			Social Security	\$4,596		\$624,807	Public Defender
A	1170	89060	10000			Hospital and Medical Insurance	\$38,451		\$1,278,046	Public Defender
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS							\$103,127	\$103,127		

ESTIMATED REVENUES

BUDGET LINE					DESCRIPTION	DECREASE	INCREASE	UNIT COST	DEPARTMENT NAME
FUND	ORG	OBJ	PROJECT	FOR POSITIONS ONLY					
				STATE POS. CODE	POSITION CONTROL				

TOTAL REVENUES	\$0	\$0
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GRAND TOTAL	\$103,127	\$103,127
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