

“A LOCAL LAW amending the Laws of Westchester County with respect to authorizing certain county officers to offer rewards for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of persons guilty of felonies and information leading to the apprehension of persons wanted on certain outstanding criminal warrants.”

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

Section 1. Section 297.11 of the Laws of Westchester County is hereby amended to read as follows:

1. The District Attorney, Sheriff/Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, Commissioner of the Department of Probation and chairman of the County Board are hereby authorized to offer and pay a reward of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) for information which shall lead to the apprehension, arrest and conviction of a person or persons guilty of a felony. The County Board may, by resolution passed by a majority of all members of the County Board, direct the District Attorney, Sheriff/Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety or the Commissioner of the Department of Probation to offer and pay rewards in accordance with the provisions of this section. No such reward authorized by this section shall be offered until the amount thereof has been approved by the committee on budget and appropriations of the County Board.

2. The District Attorney, Sheriff/Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, and Commissioner of the Department of Probation are hereby authorized to offer and pay a reward of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for information which shall lead to the apprehension of persons for whom criminal warrants are held that relate to actions or proceedings in which such persons: (i) have been sentenced in connection with a conviction for; or (ii) stand charged with - either of the following types of offenses: (a) any felony; or (b) a misdemeanor defined in Articles 120, 130, or 240 of the New York State Penal Law.

3. No police officer, peace officer, or any other law enforcement officer or governmental official shall be entitled, directly or indirectly, to collect rewards pursuant to this section.

4. Any county officer authorized to establish a rewards program pursuant to this section shall also establish a written rewards protocol consisting of, but not limited to, the following information: (a) how the offer of reward will be publicized; (b) the monetary limits of rewards, which may include various levels of rewards for varying levels of crimes or criminal acts subject to the limitations herein; and (c) eligibility requirements, which shall, at a minimum, contain the language contained in subdivision 3 herein.

5. The expenditure of any funds pursuant to this section shall be reported by the appropriate department or agency to the committees on budget and appropriations and public safety and security on a quarterly basis. Such report shall include, but not be limited to the following information: (a) total funds available for rewards; (b) actual funds dispersed as rewards; and (c) the number and type of crimes for which rewards have been offered.

6. Whenever information is received in response to an offer of a reward made pursuant to subdivision 1. of this section by the Sheriff/Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, the Commissioner of the Department of Probation, or the chairman of the County Board, the County shall notify the Office of the District Attorney.

Section 2. This Local Law shall take effect immediately.