

**COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION JOINT WITH
THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MINUTES: FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

LEGISLATION

MEMBERS: Chair: Burton; Legislators: Rogowsky, Jenkins, Harckham, Nonna, Bronz, Myers, Abinanti, Maisano

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

MEMBERS: Chair: Jenkins; Legislators: Williams, Burton, Spreckman, Pinto

IN ATTENDANCE: **CE:** A. Neuman, B. Randolph; **CA:** M. Nicolas-Brewster, J. Adin, M. Gleeson L. Cipollo; **WCHRC:** D. Brathwaite, M. Bartlett, O. King, S. Klein, B. Rauer, J. Alemany, T. Sanchala, E. Castillo, J. Levin, K. Cheeks-Lomax; **BOL:** S. Bass, R. Pizzullo, J. Sold; **Guests:** R. Norrington, D. Finger, K. Schatzel, A. Klausner, A. Seligsohn, S. Brown, A. Annunziata

With a quorum present, the Committee on Legislation and the Committee on Government Operations were called to order at 1:37 p.m.

UPDATE OF THE FAIR HOUSING LAW

Delores Brathwaite, the Executive Director of the Westchester County Human Rights Commission (WCHRC) gave an overview of the purpose of the Fair Housing Legislation and how it will work. The WCHRC worked with HUD to develop this proposed law to ensure it is substantially equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act. Westchester will be able to participate in the federal Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP). It will allow the control of our county discrimination cases to remain in the county as opposed to being dealt with by the state of federal government. The county will qualify for federal grant money to operate the program. HUD will pay \$120,000 per year for the first three years for capacity building. Ms. Brathwaite stated the protections we have provided our residents will not change by adopting this law. A Westchester Fair Housing Board will be established.

Robert Norrington from HUD's Fair Housing and Equal opportunity office answered questions about the relationship between the federal government and the county after the legislation is adopted. He described how they provide assistance and what they require of municipalities. Legislator Abinanti asked for a copy of a model agreement.

Differences from the new law and the existing law were discussed. Legislator Rogowsky asked staff to go thru the list of changes in the proposed county law and provided a spreadsheet detailing the impacts.

Legislator Nonna asked the WCHRC to work up a proposed budget of how the \$120,000 from the federal government will be spent.

Legislator Maisano asked for a copy of the letter from HUD which mentioned what the county needed to change in its law to comply with the federal FHAP. Ms. Brathwaite acknowledged she will provide the HUD letter.

Abinanti expressed concern about the need to rush the legislation due to the delay of the administration.

A follow up joint meeting will be held at the call of the Chair's.

(Pinto, Myers) Move to adjourn the Committee on Government Operations. Motion passed 5-0. The Committee on Government Operations adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Chairman Burton recessed the Committee on Legislation at 3:43 P.M. to the call of the Chair.

The Committee on Legislation reconvened at 4:41 P.M.

(Maisano, Nonna) Move to approve the minutes of October 29, 2007; November 26, 2007; and January 25, 2008. Motion approved 7-0

(Nonna, Rogowsky) move to approve an act authorizing the County of Westchester to grant a perpetual easement to the Town/Village of Harrison for the installation, operation, maintenance and repair of a sewer main under lands of Westchester County adjacent to Main Street in West Harrison. Motion approved 7-0

(Rogowsky, Maisano) move to adjourn the Committee on Legislation.
Motion approved 7-0

Committee on Legislation adjourned at 4:46 P.M.

AUDIO RECORDING ON FILE FOR REVIEW UPON REQUEST