



## Committee on Social Services

~MINUTES~

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

1:04 PM

**DRAFT**

Committee Chair: Kitley Covill

Committee Room, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

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### CALL TO ORDER

Joint with Legislation, Budget & Appropriations, and Labor & Housing

With a quorum present, Chair Kitley Covill called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kitley Covill	Chair	Present	
Nancy Barr	D6 Legislator	Present	
MaryJane Shimsky	D12 Legislator (Majority Whip)	Present	
David J. Tubiolo	D14 Legislator	Present	
Alfreda Williams	D8 Legislator (Vice Chair)	Present	

Linda Trentacosta - County Attorney, Jen Puja - WPCLB, Rich McSpedon - IBEW 3, Maria Kercado -1199 SEIU Tasha Young - My Sister's Place, CarLa Horton - Hope's Door, Sarah Leberstein - Make the Road New York, Marcella Kocolatos - A Better Balance

### MINUTES APPROVAL

### I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **(ID # 11245) Resolution – LEGISLATORS BORGIA, PARKER, A. WILLIAMS, SHIMSKY, BARR, COVILL, CLEMENTS, CUNZIO, MAHER AND BOYKIN: PH - Safe Leave:**

A RESOLUTION to set a Public Hearing on a "Local Law amending the Laws of Westchester County to add a new Chapter 586 which will provide safe time leave for victims of domestic violence." [Public Hearing set for \_\_\_\_\_, 2018 at \_\_\_\_\_ .m.].

Item #1 and #2 were discussed jointly.

Ms. Trentacoste began the discussion of the proposed Local Law Safe Leave by stating that this was originally part of the Sick Leave Local Law but the Committees, the Law Department and the advocates felt that this issue goes above and beyond what the Sick Leave legislation addressed as well as what the victims may need. The intention of the law is to provide job and wage security for people when they are at the most difficult moments of their lives. It was discussed that victims of domestic violence find themselves in fragile situations of uncertainty with fear for themselves and the safety of their families. During these times victims sometimes need to relocate or attend criminal and court proceedings. Ms. Young noted that currently there no laws which would protect victims from losing their jobs.

Chair Covill discussed that the VAWA- Violence Against Women Act has expired and they were looking into finding more information and how would it affect the legislation. They

mentioned that they would address this topic at a later date. Legislator Borgia asked, what happens now if a victim is dealing with a domestic violence situation. Tasha Young explained that as stated there is no legal protection and her organization was looking to partner with local governments. She noted that most victims have repeated absences, and very rarely inform the employer of what is actually going on in their lives for fear of losing their job. There was a discussion concerning the current language which has not addressed documentation for employers and is silent on whether it covers part time employees and the size of the business.

A discussion was held as to whether to mimic the language of the Sick Leave and will the 40 hours be enough. Legislator Burrows and Chair Covill noted that a court proceeding requires time off above and beyond what is allotted in the Sick Leave legislation.

Legislator Borgia asked about what documentation would be necessary to show employers?

The members discussed possible options. Marcella Kocolatos from A Better Balance discussed possible language additions to address the documentation required for employers.

Legislator Tubiolo asked if they could get statistics on how many people receive services. It was mentioned that a request has been submitted to the Office of Women, and Chair Covill will reach out to the Department of Social Services. Tanya Young from My Sister's Place asked when revising the language could the committee consider including Labor Trafficking and Human Trafficking.

The members discussed enforcement.

Chair Covill stated she spoke to Jim Masiano and the Department of Consumer Affairs agreed to hold the hearings but she did not know who will take the complaints.

Jenn Puja from AFL-CIO spoke on the how her coalition was very involved in the Sick Leave Legislation and that they are very in favor of Safe Leave Legislation. She said with this Legislation in place it will help those who have not come forward. She discussed the coalition works with My Sister's Place and Hope's Door, and this is a good resource for Labor to have.

Legislator Borgia asked how the time off is covered by some Collective Bargaining Agreements. Maria Kercado from 1199 discussed that some agreements have specifically addressed how to handle this issue. Legal situations do not supersede the agreement. She mentioned that some agreements do specifically speak to Sick Leave.

There was a short discussion on including human trafficking in the legislation.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PENDING</b>
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**2. (ID # 11246) Local Law – LEGISLATORS BORGIA, PARKER, A. WILLIAMS, SHIMSKY, BARR, COVILL, CLEMENTS, CUNZIO, MAHER AND BOYKIN- Safe Leave:**

A LOCAL LAW amending the Laws of Westchester County to add a new Chapter 586 which will provide safe time leave for victims of domestic violence.

Item #1 and #2 were discussed jointly, please see item #1 for discussion.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PENDING</b>
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## II. OTHER BUSINESS

Unfinished Business and any other agenda items to come before the Committee.

### III. RECEIVE & FILE

#### ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Shimsky seconded by Legislator A. Williams the Committee adjourned at 2:06 PM.