

Ken Jenkins**Chairman of the Board
Legislator, 16th District****WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS****MEMORANDUM OF LEGISLATION**

SPONSOR: Legislator Jenkins, A. Williams, Myers, Shimsky, V. Perez, Borgia

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL: a Local Law establishing the Westchester County Office of Women.

INTENT OF BILL: to create the Westchester County Office of Women within the department of the County Executive and under his or her charge and direction. This legislation will also require a full time paid Executive Director and establish the Westchester Women's Advisory Board.

The County Executive shall appoint the Executive Director, subject to confirmation by the Board of Legislators. They must have earned a graduate degree in human services or a related field and have five years of experience working on issues directly impacting women, services for women or equivalent training and experience, to administer the Office of Women.

The Advisory Board also shall be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Board of Legislators. It will consist of a representative from each Legislative District and ten members at large for two year terms. The Board will advise and assist both the County Executive and the County Board of Legislators on all matters in the formation of public policy in Westchester County. The members shall serve without compensation.

JUSTIFICATION: to codify the County Executive order from 1980 which set up the Office of Women and County Board Resolution 203-1983, which formed the Women's Advisory Board. It was stated then and is even truer today that for the strength of the County, the Office of Women and its Board must function as an advisory group providing input on all matters to ensure that the interest of women and their perspectives are considered. There has been an increasing need to work on issues such as domestic violence, child care, economic development, and education that uniquely impact women. This will place the Office of Women on par with the Youth Bureau which was established by local law in 1995.

PRESENT LAW: Resolution No.203-1983

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Your Committee recommends adoption of “A LOCAL LAW amending the Laws of Westchester County by adding a new Chapter 177 relating to the establishment of a Westchester County Office of Women.”

Issues relating to women and their role in society have been of great importance to Westchester County for numerous years. In 1974, there was a Westchester County Task Force on Women, which became the Westchester County Women’s Council. In 1983, the Westchester County Women’s Advisory Board was created along with the County Executive’s Office for Women.

Over the years, there has been an increasing need to work on issues such as child care, economic development and education that uniquely impact women. It is the intent of this proposed Local Law to ensure that the County remains firmly committed to addressing these issues, to consolidate and coordinate the current efforts of the Women’s Advisory Board and the County Executive’s Office for Women.

As you know, this Honorable Board must comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and its implementing regulations, see Title 6, Part 617 of the New York Code Rules and Regulations (N.Y.C.R.R.). The Commissioner of Planning has reviewed the applicable SEQRA regulations, and has concluded that this proposed legislation **[INSERT SEQRA INFORMATION]**.

In light of the aforementioned, your Committee recommends adoption of this proposed Local Law.

Dated: 2010
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

RESOLUTION NO. - 2010

RESOLVED, that this Board hold a public hearing pursuant to Section 209.141(4) of the Laws of Westchester County on Local Law Intro. No. -2010 entitled "A LOCAL LAW amending the Laws of Westchester County by adding a new Chapter 177 relating to the establishment of a Westchester County Office of Women." The public hearing will be held at m. on the day of , 2010 in the Chambers of the Board of Legislators, 8th Floor, Michaelian Office Building, White Plains, New York. The Clerk of the Board shall cause notice of the time and date of such hearing to be published at least once in one or more newspapers published in the County of Westchester and selected by the Clerk of the Board for that purpose in the manner and time required by law.