

Public Hearing
Local Law Introductory No. D of 2022
December 8, 2022

The Public Hearing on Local Law Introductory No. D of 2022 A Local Law providing for the repeal of Local Law No. 5 of 2006 and the enactment of a replacement law providing for the administration and enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code was called to order by Chair Sauerbrey at 1:00 P.M. All Eight Legislative members were present.

There were 10 people in attendance.

The Clerk read the legal notice as published in the official newspapers.

County Attorney DeWind spoke. "As we discussed at our last session where this local law was introduced, we do have to have this local law in place. We already have a local law in place that is substantially similar, which is Local Law No. 5 of 2006. This local law repeals and replaces the 2006 local law with the current version. The State included some extra new language. In particular, this adds sections about what to do in the case of an unsafe building or an imminent danger to public health. There is a new section on operating permits and fire and property maintenance inspections on an annual basis. There is a whole separate section on parking garages. The applicability of this local law is really County operations and County buildings. It does not cause any change in salary or staffing. Mr. Morgan, who is in attendance today, has been serving as the County's Code Enforcement Officer for any County operations for 16 years. We cannot certify our own code, so we have to have someone else do it and if Mr. Morgan were not doing it and we did not have our own code, we would have to look to the State to come down to certify any of our operations or things like rehabilitation of one of our facilities. This local law substantially replaces our 2006 local law with the current code".

Legislator Standinger spoke. "I am a little concerned about the energy code included in this local law because I know the State is moving toward with this new green deal. I am concerned that as a result of this we may be tasked with enforcing some of their mandates, but I will vote yes on this even though I do have some reservations".

Legislator Mullen spoke. "I second the comment made by Legislator Standinger. The energy code is literally crazy, but better us to have a say than be told what to do".

County Attorney DeWind spoke. "This gives you some control in-house. Mr. Morgan is a local resident who is able to be the one to take a look what we do.

There are provisions in this local law that force us now to take a look at environmental factors, including flooding and potential for flooding areas. It would not surprise me that over the next couple of years, as you were saying, that there are more amendments to this local law, especially for the energy code. There is a good chance that you might see this pushed down from the State on to us regardless."

There being no public comments, the hearing was adjourned at 1:05 P.M.