

LOCAL LAW NO. 4 - 2023

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER AND ONONDAGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO ESTABLISH A DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF ONONDAGA COUNTY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The purpose of this local law is to align county functions and responsibilities, thereby supporting increased efficiencies in government and providing for a more streamlined use of resources among County units.

Section 2. Article 12 of the Onondaga County Charter, being Local Law No. 1 of 1961, as amended, hereby is stricken and substituted with the following:

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

Section

- 1201. County planning board.
- 1202. Powers and duties of the County planning board.
- 1203. Department of planning; director.
- 1204. Powers and duties of the director.

Section 1201. COUNTY PLANNING BOARD.

There shall be a County planning board, the members of which shall be appointed by the County Executive. The composition of such board in relation to the number of members and the terms of such members shall be as provided in the administrative code.

Section 1202. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD.

The County planning board shall:

- (a) Exercise all the powers and duties of a County planning board heretofore or hereafter lawfully granted or imposed by this charter, local law, ordinance or resolution of the County legislature, order or direction of the County executive, or by any applicable provision authorized by any act of the legislature not inconsistent with the County charter or the administrative code.
- (b) Serve as advisor to the County Executive, to County departments, offices, agencies of the County and to the County legislature on all planning matters relating to the development of the County.
- (c) Delegate any or all of its advisory functions relating to planning to the Department of Planning, except as otherwise provided by law.

Section 1203. DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING; DIRECTOR.

There shall be a Department of Planning headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the County Executive subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. The appointment shall be on the basis of professional experience and qualifications for the duties of the office. The Director shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive.

Section 1204. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR.

Except as otherwise provided in the County charter or the administrative code, the Director shall: prepare and maintain a comprehensive development plan for the County; coordinate all planning activities which affect the County; cooperate with all municipalities on planning matters including providing professional planning services under mutual agreement; be responsible for conducting all planning studies and work delegated to the Department of Planning by the County planning board; serve, or appoint a representative(s) to serve, as secretary to the County planning board; be responsible for employing and supervising an adequate planning staff within budget appropriations; coordinate and develop operations to assist the County planning board; serve, or appoint a representative(s) to serve, the County planning board; carry out any inter-municipal planning agreements; and perform such other and related duties as may be prescribed by the County Executive or required by law.

The Director may appoint such Deputy Directors, within appropriations therefore, who shall possess adequate experience, training or education in planning, geographic information systems management, or other related fields. The Director is authorized to create such divisions as are necessary to perform the functions and duties of the office.

Section 3. Article 12 of the Onondaga County Administrative Code, being Local Law No. 1 of 1975, as amended, hereby is stricken and substituted with the following:

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

Section

- 12.01. Onondaga County Planning Board; Membership; Appointment; Term; Vacancies.
- 12.02. Onondaga County Planning Board; Powers and Duties.
- 12.03. Department of Planning; Director.
- 12.04. Director; Powers and Duties.

Section 12.01. ONONDAGA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD, MEMBERSHIP; APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.

There shall be a County Planning Board, whose members shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to the approval of the County Legislature, and subject also to the provisions of Section 3.13 of this Code. The Board shall select annually its own chairperson and otherwise organize and reorganize itself in such manner as it may deem appropriate or as may be provided by law. It shall meet at least quarterly and otherwise at the call of its chairperson. Vacancies in membership occurring other than by expiration of terms shall be filled by appointment of the County Executive, subject to the approval of the County Legislature, for the respective unexpired terms.

Section 12.02. ONONDAGA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD, POWERS AND DUTIES.

Except as may otherwise be provided in the Charter or this Code, the County Planning Board shall:

- (a) advise the County Executive and all other units of County government, either upon their request or upon its own initiative, on all planning matters relating to the development of the County;
- (b) except as may otherwise be provided by law, delegate to the Department of Planning such of its functions as it may deem appropriate; and

- (c) have all the powers and perform all the duties now or hereafter conferred or imposed upon it by law, including those respecting subdivision approval and zoning within the County, together with such other and related duties as may be required by the County Executive.

Section 12.03. DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING; DIRECTOR.

There shall be a Department of Planning under the direction of a Director of Planning, who shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to approval of the County Legislature. The Director shall be appointed on the basis of experience in the fields of planning and such other qualifications as may be needed for the responsibilities of the office. The Director of Planning shall be directly responsible to, and serve at the pleasure of, the County Executive.

Section 12.04. DIRECTOR; POWERS AND DUTIES.

In addition to the powers and duties prescribed in Section 1204 of the Charter, the Director of Planning shall:

- (a) prepare and update periodically a comprehensive master plan for the development of Onondaga County, to be submitted for approval to the County Executive and to the County Legislature as provided in the General Municipal Law;
- (b) coordinate all planning activities affecting the County which may from time to time be implemented by localities and public agencies within the County or by other levels of government outside the County in such manner as to affect the County;
- (c) collect and distribute information respecting metropolitan, regional and community planning and zoning;
- (d) make available to all departments and other units of County government, within appropriations therefor, such planning counsel and technical support as shall be directed by the County Executive in the areas of human and physical services;
- (e) assist local communities within the County in matters pertaining to planning and zoning and provide planning and other special staff services to them as contracted or requested;
- (f) represent the County in all planning matters;
- (g) provide planning staff services to the County, City, Town and Village governments as requested, including services under contractual arrangements;
- (h) provide planning services for, and in cooperation with, such private agencies as it shall deem appropriate in the performance of its activities; and
- (i) have all the powers and perform all the duties now or hereafter conferred or imposed by law, together with such other and related duties as may be required by the County Executive or delegated to the Department of Planning by the County Planning Board.

Section 4. Section 3.03B(3) of the Administrative Code hereby is amended to strike the words “Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency” and substitute therefore the “Department of Planning”.

Section 5. The Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency shall no longer serve the County. The current Director of the Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency shall become the Director of the Onondaga County Department of Planning and all powers and duties of the Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency regarding the County are hereby transferred to the Director of the Onondaga County Department of Planning, effective July 1, 2023.

Section 6. The County Executive is authorized to enter into agreements with the City of Syracuse to effect the intent of this local law.

Section 7. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this local law shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which the judgment shall have been rendered.

Section 8. Effective Date.

The provisions of this local law shall take effect July 1, 2023. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing, consistent with the provisions of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

PASSED 6/6/2023



I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the legislation duly adopted by the County Legislature of Onondaga County on the 6th day of June 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jm", is written over a horizontal line.

Clerk, County Legislature