

*Public Hearing
Local Law Introductory No. C of 2022
February 24, 2022*

The Public Hearing on Local Law Introductory No. C of 2022 A Local Law repealing Local Law No. 1 of 2022 and imposing additional surcharges for telephonic communication pursuant to the authority of Tax Law §186-g and County Law §337 was called to order by Chair Sauerbrey at 10:03 A.M. Legislators Brown, Monell, Mullen, Roberts, Sauerbrey, Standingger, and Weston were present with Legislators Ciotoli and Hollenbeck being absent.

There were four people in attendance.

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

County Attorney DeWind spoke. "We have already done this by passing Local Law No. 1 of 2022, which did effectively the same thing; adding a one dollar (\$1.00) surcharge to wireless and landline communication. After the local law was passed, we received some feedback from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, which is the entity that collects the wireless surcharges. They required some changes, so this effectively repeals Local Law No. 1 of 2022 and replaces it with Local Law No. 3 of 2022 to change the effective collection date particularly for the wireless communication. Otherwise, functionally it largely works the same way and it just extends both additional fees for a period of ten years. Unfortunately, we did not find out about that until literally the day this Legislative body had passed Local Law No. 1 of 2022. Unfortunately, this requires repealing the local law and this new local law should take care of the matter."

Legislator Standingger spoke. "I am not enthused about taxing our citizens, myself included, but unfortunately we have a dire situation with the radio communication system for emergency response vehicles in the County. So, the goal of this added tax will help us replace that system and make it better functioning for the citizens who live here."

Legislator Mullen spoke. "As Chair of the Public Safety Committee, a lot of work went into this and what I hope we achieve out of this is that we do not have to do this again and that we use this money appropriately to keep our system updated as technology advances. In my opinion, we, at some point along the line, faltered. I want to thank County Attorney DeWind, Legislative Chair Sauerbrey, Director of Emergency Services Simmons and others who worked on this because this was not something we did hastily or without a lot of forethought. I appreciate all the efforts that were made."

There being no public comments, the hearing was adjourned at 10:07 A.M.