

# TOWN OF ROTTERDAM

Diane M. Marco  
Town Clerk



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John F. Kirvin Government Center • 1100 Sunrise Boulevard • Rotterdam, NY 12306  
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April 16, 2024

New York State Department of State  
Bureau of State Records and Law  
One Commerce Plaza  
99 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12231-0001

RE: Filing of Town of Rotterdam Local Law 5-20246 Month Moratorium Battery Energy

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed are forms required to file Local Law 5-2024, adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Rotterdam meeting held on April 10, 2024.

If you are in need of anything else please feel free to call my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane M. Marco". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Diane M. Marco  
Town Clerk

Enclosure

At the regularly scheduled public meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rotterdam, held at the John F. Kirvin Government Center, 1100 Sunrise Boulevard, Rotterdam, New York 12306 on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., the following resolution was duly adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 173.24**

**TO ENACT INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 5 OF 2024; TO ESTABLISH A SIX (6) MONTH EXTENSION TO LOCAL LAW 8 OF 2023 WHICH ESTABLISHED A SIX (6) MONTH MORATORIUM PROHIBITING BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM INSTALLATIONS WITH IN THE TOWN OF ROTTERDAM**

**THEREFORE, UPON MOTION OF Councilmember SCHLAG, seconded by Councilmember GALLUCCI,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The Town Board hereby enacts Introductory Local Law No. 5 of 2024.

**SECTION 2.** The Town Clerk is directed, following consultation with the Attorney to the Town, to file said Local Law in final form with the New York State Department of State.

**SECTION 3.** This resolution shall become effective April 10, 2024.

**DATED:** April 10, 2024

NAME	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN
Dodson	X		
Mastroianni	X		
Gallucci	X		
Schlag	X		
Collins	X		

I, Diane M. Marco, Town Clerk of the Town of Rotterdam, Schenectady County, New York, **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing resolution was approved by the Town Board Meeting of the Town of Rotterdam on April 10, 2024, and that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct transcript of the original resolution and of the whole thereof and that said resolution is on file in the Town Clerk’s office.

**I DO FURTHER CERTIFY** that each of the members of the Town Board had due notice of the said Town Board meeting.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Town of Rotterdam this April 12, 2024.

*Diane M. Marco*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane M. Marco, Town Clerk



# Local Law Filing

(Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of State.)

Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underlining to indicate new matter.

County  City  Town  Village  
(Select one.)

of Rotterdam

Local Law No. 5 of the year 2024

A local law TO ESTABLISH A SIX (6) MONTH EXTENSION TO LOCAL LAW 8 OF 2023  
(Insert Title)  
WHICH ESTABLISHED A SIX (6) MONTH MORATORIUM PROHIBITING BATTERY  
ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM INSTALLATIONS WITH IN THE TOWN OF  
ROTTERDAM

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the  
(Name of Legislative Body)

County  City  Town  Village  
(Select one.)

of Rotterdam as follows:

See attached

(If additional space is needed, attach pages the same size as this sheet, and number each.)

(Complete the certification in the paragraph that applies to the filing of this local law and strike out that which is not applicable.)

**1. (Final adoption by local legislative body only.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. 5 of 2024 of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of Rotterdam was duly passed by the Town Board on April 10 2024, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.  
*(Name of Legislative Body)*

**2. (Passage by local legislative body with approval, no disapproval or repassage after disapproval by the Elective Chief Executive Officer\*.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) *(Name of Legislative Body)* (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ and was deemed duly adopted *(Elective Chief Executive Officer\*)* on \_\_\_\_\_ 20  , in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

**3. (Final adoption by referendum.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) *(Name of Legislative Body)* (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_. *(Elective Chief Executive Officer\*)*

Such local law was submitted to the people by reason of a (mandatory)(permissive) referendum, and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the (general)(special)(annual) election held on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

**4. (Subject to permissive referendum and final adoption because no valid petition was filed requesting referendum.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) *(Name of Legislative Body)* (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_. Such local law was subject to permissive referendum and no valid petition requesting such referendum was filed as of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

\* Elective Chief Executive Officer means or includes the chief executive officer of a county elected on a county-wide basis or, if there be none, the chairperson of the county legislative body, the mayor of a city or village, or the supervisor of a town where such officer is vested with the power to approve or veto local laws or ordinances.

**5. (City local law concerning Charter revision proposed by petition.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ having been submitted to referendum pursuant to the provisions of section (36)(37) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of such city voting thereon at the (special)(general) election held on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, became operative.

**6. (County local law concerning adoption of Charter.)**

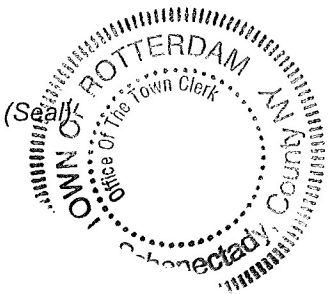
I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the County of \_\_\_\_\_ State of New York, having been submitted to the electors at the General Election of November \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, pursuant to subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 33 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the cities of said county as a unit and a majority of the qualified electors of the towns of said county considered as a unit voting at said general election, became operative.

**(If any other authorized form of final adoption has been followed, please provide an appropriate certification.)**

I further certify that I have compared the preceding local law with the original on file in this office and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original local law, and was finally adopted in the manner indicated in paragraph \_\_\_\_\_ above.

*Doreen M. Marice*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the county legislative body, City, Town or Village Clerk or officer designated by local legislative body

Date: 4-16-2024



**LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY LAND USE MORATORIUM PROHIBITING BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM INSTALLATIONS WITHIN THE TOWN OF ROTTERDAM.**

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Rotterdam as follows:

**SECTION 1. TITLE**

This Local Law shall be known as the “Moratorium and Prohibition of Battery Energy Storage System Installations within the Town of Rotterdam.”

**SECTION 2. STATUTORY AUTHORITY PURPOSE AND INTENT.**

This Local Law is intended to be consistent with and is adopted pursuant to the authority granted to the Town Board of the Town of Rotterdam under the New York State Constitution, and the Laws of the State of New York including but not limited to the following authorities: New York State Constitution Article IX, Section 2 (c) (ii)(6)m (10)l Municipal Home Rule Law § 10(2); Municipal Home Rule Law §10(3); Municipal Home Rule Law §10(4)(a), and (b) and (15); Town Law §135; Town Law Article 16 (Zoning & Planning) inclusive; Environmental Conservation Law §3-0301 (1)(b), 3-0301(2)(m) and 8-0113 and 6 NYCRR Part 61, also known as the State Environmental Quality Review Act as it pertains to applications that are neither excluded nor exempt from this local law.

This Local Law is land use regulation. This Local Law is intended and is hereby declared to address matters of local concern, and it is declared that it is not the intention of the Town to address matters of statewide concern. This Local Law is intended to act as and is hereby declared to exercise the permissive “incidental control” of a zoning law and land use law that is concerned with the broad area of land use planning and the physical use of land and property within the Town, including the physical externalities associated with certain land uses, such as potential negative impacts of such uses on a community.

This Local Law shall supersede and suspend those provisions of the Code of the Town of Rotterdam and New York state law which require the Planning Board and/or the Town Code Enforcement officer to accept, process, and approve land use applications within certain statutory time periods.

This Local Law is intended to temporarily prohibit the creation or siting of battery energy storage system installations (as herein later defined) within the Town of Rotterdam for a period of up to six (6) months, pending the development and adoption of local laws and/or ordinances designed to regulate and govern such installations.

The Town Board recognizes and acknowledges that the Town needs to study and analyze many considerations that affect the preparation of local legislation to regulate the future creation and siting of battery energy storage system installations. The Town Board has formally requested the Building and Zoning Department and the Planning Board and the Energy Committee of the Town of Rotterdam to identify and review local laws from other jurisdictions, and related information and source materials, in order to assist in developing the parameters of a local law to regulate battery energy storage system installations. The Town Board has directed the Town Attorney to assist in this endeavor.

The Town Board also recognized the need to review and examine its existing ordinance, local laws and Zoning Code provisions insofar as they may be affected by adoption of such local law(s) regulating the creation and/or siting of battery energy storage system installations. It is deemed necessary to enact this moratorium in order to permit the Town adequate time in which to draft suitable legislation for this

purpose. During the term of the moratorium the Town of Rotterdam shall work to prepare and eventually adopt new land use regulations to incorporate into the Town's existing Zoning Code.

Currently, there is one pending applications for the location, development or site plan approval of battery energy storage system installation. The BlueWave Battery Site application has made significant progress through the planning process for the proposed Battery Storage Facility located at 635 Mariaville Road in the Town of Rotterdam. That application shall be exempt from this Moratorium.

During the pendency of the moratorium, the Town Board will consider how best to permit such installations so as to harmoniously integrate such installations with the existing agricultural community and landscape and to mitigate potential undesirable environmental impacts that may be associated with such use. At present, the Zoning Code of the Town of Rotterdam may not adequately regulate such land use. If the community allows such development during that time the goals of the Town could be undermined or damaged. Moratoria are useful in controlling or temporarily inhibiting development until satisfactory final regulations are adopted.

For these reasons, the Town Board finds that temporary moratorium legislation is both advisable and necessary for a reasonable and defined period of time in order to develop and adopt necessary zoning and land use changes to the Zoning Code of the Town of Rotterdam, thus protecting and furthering the public interest, health and safety.

### **SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.**

For purposes of this Local Law, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively set forth below:

**Battery Energy Storage System Installation(s)** – Any installation of a rechargeable energy storage system, consisting of electrochemical storage batteries or similar technology, battery charges, controls, power condition systems, inverters, transformers, switchgears and associated electrical equipment designed to store electoral power received from a generating or transmission source and periodically discharging power from the battery energy storage system into the power grid. Systems typically used to provide standby or emergency power and/or an uninterruptable power supply, load shedding, load sharing, or similar capabilities relating to the energy consumed by a residence, farm operation or business on site shall not be considered a "Battery Energy Storage System Installation" for purposes of the Moratorium.

### **SECTION 4. TEMPORARY MORATORIUM and PROHIBITION.**

A. Unless permitted pursuant to Section 5 hereafter, from and after the date of this Local Law, no application for a permit, zoning permit, special permit, zoning variance, building permit, operating permit, site plan approval, subdivision approval, certificate of occupancy, certificate of compliance, temporary certificate, or other Town-level approval of any nature shall be accepted, processed, entertained, approved, approved conditionally, or issued by any board, employee, official or agent of the Town of Rotterdam, for the construction establishment or use or operation of any land, body of water, building, or other structure located within the Town of Rotterdam, for any Battery Energy Storage System Installation, as defined above, except for the projects specifically exempted by this moratorium.

B. Unless permitted pursuant to Section 5 hereafter, from the after the date of this Local Law, no person, entity or business shall use, cause, or permit to be used, any land, body of water, building, or other

structure located within the Town of Rotterdam for any Battery Energy Storage System Installation, as defined above.

C. The prohibitions set forth above in Clauses A. and B. of this Section 4. Are not intended, and shall not be construed, to prevent or prohibit the use and development of battery energy storage systems that are typically used to provide standby or emergency power and/or an uninterruptable power supply, load shedding, load sharing, or similar capabilities and that are for personal or individual use on or about any residence or place of business, or any farm operation.

D. This moratorium and prohibition shall be in effect beginning on the effective date of this Local Law and shall expire on the earlier of (i) that date which is six (6) months after said effective date; or (ii) the effective date of a Town Board resolution affirmatively stating the Town Board has determined that the need for this moratorium and prohibition no longer exists.

E. This moratorium and prohibition shall apply to all real property within the Town of Rotterdam, and all land use applications for the siting or creation of Battery Energy Storage System Installation within the Town of Rotterdam.

F. Under no circumstances shall the failure of the Town Board of the Town of Rotterdam, the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Rotterdam, the Planning Board of the Town of Rotterdam, or the Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Rotterdam to take any action upon any application for a permit, zoning permit, special permit, zoning variance, building permit, operating permit, site plan approval, subdivision approval, certificate of occupancy, certificate of compliance, temporary certificate, or any other Town level approval related to Battery Energy Storage System Installation constitute an approval by default or an approval by virtue of expiration of time to respond to such application.

#### **SECTION 5. HARDSHIP VARIANCE RELIEF FROM APPLICABILITY OF MORATORIUM.**

Applications for land use otherwise subject to this moratorium may be exempted from the provisions of this Local Law following a noticed public hearing before the Town Board. It is specifically intended that this moratorium shall supersede New York State law which would otherwise confer exclusive variance authority to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Following a written request for hardship variance relief, within sixty (60) days of receipt of such request, a noticed public hearing shall be held, at which hearing the Town Board may, but is not limited to consider:

A. The proximity of applicant's premises or the subject of applicant's request for relief to natural resources, including but not limited to prime agricultural soils, wetland areas, conservation districts and other areas of environmental concern.

B. The impact of the proposed application on the applicant's premises and upon the surrounding area.

C. Compatibility of the proposed application with the existing land use and character of the area in general proximity to the subject of the application, and its effect upon aesthetic resources of the community.

D. Compatibility of the proposed application with the recommendations of any administrative body charged with such review by the Town of Rotterdam.



E. The written opinion of the Town of Rotterdam Planning Board and the Town of Rotterdam Code Enforcement Officer that such application may be jeopardized or made impractical by waiting until the moratorium is expired.

F. Evidence specifying in detail the nature and level of any alleged hardship imposed on the property owner(s) as result of this moratorium.

G. Such other considerations and issues as may be raised by the Town Board.

In making a determination concerning a proposed exemption or grant of relief from application of the moratorium, the Town Board may obtain and consider reports and information from any source it deems to be helpful with review of said application. A grant of relief from application of the moratorium shall include a determination of unreasonable hardship upon the property owner (or if there are multiple property owners, a determination that each such owner shall suffer an unreasonable hardship) which is unique to the property owner(s), a finding that there are sufficient existing regulations to adequately govern the application for which a hardship waiver is being requested, and a finding that the grant or an exemption will be in harmony with, and will be consistent with an existing Town of Rotterdam Zoning Ordinance and the recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan as such may exist.

An application for relief from the prohibitions of the moratorium shall be accompanied by fee a \$500, together with the applicant's written undertaking in a form to be approved by the Attorney for the Town, to pay all of the expenses of the Town Board and any agent or consultant retained by the Town Board to evaluate and consider the merits of such application, including but not limited to any fees incurred by the Town of services provided by the Attorney of the Town.

#### **SECTION 6. PENALTIES.**

A. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Local Law shall be an unclassified misdemeanor as contemplated by Article 10 and Section 80.05 of the New York State Penal Law, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) or imprisonment for not more than 10 days, or both for the first offense. Any subsequent offense within a three-month period shall be punishable by a fine of not more than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) or imprisonment for a period of not more than 30 days, or both. For purposes of this Clause:

A. each day that a violation of this Local Law exists shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.

B. Compliance with this Local Law may also be compelled and violations restrained by order or by injunction of a court of competent jurisdiction, in an action brought on behalf of the Town by the Town Board.

C. In the event the Town is required to take legal action to enforce this Local Law, the violator will be responsible for any and all costs incurred by the Town relative thereto, including attorney's fees, and such amount shall be determined and assessed by the court. If such expense is not paid in full within 30 days from the date it is determined and assessed by the Court, such expense shall be charged to the propert(ies) within the Town on which the violation occurred, by including such expense in the next

annual Town tax levy against such property, and such expense shall be lien upon such property until paid.

**SECTION 7. CONFLICTS.**

For and during the stated term of this legislation, unless the stated term thereof shall be modified or abridged by the Town Board, this moratorium shall take precedence over and shall control over any contradictory local law, ordinance, regulation for Zoning Ordinance provision.

**SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY.**

If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this Local Law, or the application thereof to any person or to any circumstance, is adjudged or declared invalid or unenforceable by a court or other tribunal of competent jurisdiction, then, and in such event, such judgement or declaration shall be continued in its interpretation and operation only to the provision of this Local Law that is directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or declaration is rendered, and such judgement or declaration of invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect or impair the validity or enforceability of the remainder of this Local Law or the application hereof to any other persons or circumstances. If necessary, as to such person or circumstances such invalid or unenforceable provision shall be and be deemed severed here from, and the Town Board of the Town hereby declares that it would have enacted this Local Law, or the remainder thereof, even if, as to provisions and persons or circumstances, a portion hereof is severed or declared invalid or unenforceable.

**SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The effective date of this Local Law shall be immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State.