

**Council Member Balarin, on behalf of the Committee on Planning, Economic Development, and Land Use, introduced the following, which was approved:**

**LOCAL LAW A OF 2024 (As Amended 5/20/24)**

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING PART 8 (SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE) OF CHAPTER 42 (DEPARTMENTS AND COMMISSIONS) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO RENAMING AND ADJUSTING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Be it enacted, by the Common Council of the City of Albany, as follows:*

**Section 1.** Part 8 (Sustainability Advisory Committee) of Chapter 42 (Departments and Commissions) of Part I (Administrative Legislation) of the Code of the City of Albany is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Part 8 Sustainability ~~Advisory Committee~~ Commission**

**§ 42-132 Legislative intent.**

The City of Albany by Resolution 51.52.09R and Executive Order No. 422-09 has pledged to combat climate change and take action to adopt more sustainable practices by becoming a “Climate Smart Community.” The City of Albany Common Council believes that the social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainability are key to the successful implementation of the Albany 2030 Plan. Additionally, the City of Albany Common Council believes that there is overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments which is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels. The effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms and food systems, ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing our community’s resiliency will require sustained and substantial efforts by all levels of government, interest groups, and citizens. Establishment of a Sustainability ~~Advisory Committee~~ Commission is a necessary step in fostering unified action on climate change.

**§ 42-133 Establishment; appointment of members.**

- A. There is hereby established a Sustainability ~~Advisory Committee~~ Commission comprised of ~~15~~ 19 voting members, five of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor and ~~five~~ seven of whom shall be appointed by the Common Council. The remaining members of the ~~Committee~~ Commission shall be composed of the following: the Commissioner of the Department of General Service, the Commissioner of ~~Development and Planning~~ Neighborhood and Community Services, the Commissioner of the Water Department, the City Engineer, the Director of Infrastructure Management, the Director of Sustainability, and the head of the Police Traffic Safety Unit, or their designees.

- B. The members appointed by the Mayor and Common Council shall be appointed for three-year terms; provided, however, that members initially appointed by the Mayor and Common Council, one shall be for a term of one year, two shall be for a term of two years, and two shall be for a term of three years.
- C. Members shall continue to serve on the ~~Committee~~ Commission until their successors have been appointed.
- D. Annually, from among its membership, the ~~Committee~~ Commission shall elect a Chair and such other officers as determined.
- E. Any vacancy occasioned by resignation, death or removal of a member shall be filled promptly in the same manner as the predecessor to fill the unexpired term.
- F. The ~~Committee~~ Commission shall have the authority to create ~~sub~~committees to focus on specific topics, including, but not limited to, energy, equity, transportation, water, waste, and food systems. Membership on the ~~sub~~committees shall be open to the general public at the discretion of the ~~Committee~~ Commission.

**§ 42-134 Qualifications of members.**

The members of the ~~Committee~~ Commission appointed by the Mayor and Common Council shall reside in the City of Albany and possess a reputation for fairness, integrity and responsibility and have demonstrated an active interest in public affairs and the environment. The Mayor and the Common Council shall reflect community diversity in their appointments, including, but not limited to, income level, race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender and sexual orientation.

**§ 42-135 Meetings; staff.**

The ~~Committee~~ Commission shall meet no less than six times per year and shall establish a regular meeting calendar which is readily accessible to the public. Meetings of the ~~Committee~~ Commission shall be public and comply with provisions of the Open Meetings Law. The Mayor's Office of Sustainability as staffed by the ~~Division of Planning~~ Department of Administrative Services shall serve as staff to the ~~Committee~~ Commission.

**§ 42-136 Powers and duties.**

The ~~Committee~~ Commission shall have the following functions, powers and duties to:

- A. Study and recommend methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, and renewable energy production, conserve water, reduce waste, and employ environmentally responsible products;
- B. Promote the use of methods, systems, and materials that do not deplete natural land, water, and energy resources or harm natural cycles;
- C. Encourage the growth of green businesses and green jobs within the City, as well as the adoption of sustainable practices by existing businesses;

- D. Work cooperatively with similar task forces in neighboring communities to ensure that efforts complement and reinforce one another;
- E. Empower every resident of the City, regardless of social demographics or economic means, by informing City residents of practical and attainable ways to live sustainably;
- F. Consider ways for large academic, governmental, or institutional communities to become more environmentally sensitive;
- G. Encourage and stimulate City of Albany agencies and departments to take such action as will fulfill the purposes of this Part;
- H. Make recommendations as necessary and appropriate to the Mayor and the Common Council to effectuate the goals and purposes of this Part.
- I. Assist with the implementation and monitoring of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plans, as well as the Capital Region Sustainability Plan.

**§ 42-137 Reports.**

The ~~Committee~~ Commission shall file an annual report ~~in~~ by June 30 of each year with the Common Council and the Mayor summarizing the work and activities of the ~~Committee~~ Commission since the previous June.

**Section 2.** Section 153-8 (Membership of CCA Oversight Board) of Chapter 153 (Community Choice Aggregation) of Part II (General Legislation) of the Code of the City of Albany is hereby amended to read as follows:

**§ 153-8 Membership of CCA Oversight Board.**

- A. The membership of the CCA Oversight Board shall consist of five members comprised of: two members of the Common Council selected by the President Pro Tem, the Chair of the Sustainability ~~Advisory Committee~~ Commission or his or her designee, the Chief Planning Official or his or her designee, and a Mayoral appointee who is a resident of the City of Albany.
- B. The Chairperson of this Board shall be chosen amongst the membership by a majority vote.

**Section 3.** This Local Law shall take effect upon passage, public hearing, and filing with the Secretary of State.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM THIS  
17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2024**

## Corporation Counsel

Matter in ~~strike through~~ to be deleted. Matter underlined is new material.

**To:** Shaniqua Jackson, City Clerk

**From:** Bryan Jimenez, Senior Legislative Aide  
Jake Eisland, Esq., Research Counsel

**Re:** Common Council Legislation  
Supporting Memorandum

**Date:** February 8, 2024

**Sponsor(s):** Balarin o/b/o Planning

**LOCAL LAW A OF 2024 (As Amended 5/20/24)**

**TITLE**

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING PART 8 (SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE) OF CHAPTER 42 (DEPARTMENTS AND COMMISSIONS) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO RENAMING AND ADJUSTING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION**

This local law will rename the Sustainability Advisory Committee to the Sustainability Commission, increase the number of members serving on the Commission from fifteen to nineteen members, and adjust the membership to reflect the new City structure.

**NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION AND CHANGES TO EXISTING LAW**

This legislation renames the Sustainability Advisory Committee to the Sustainability Commission to better align the name of the group with its organizational structure as well as increases the size of the Commission from fifteen to nineteen members. This will allow for greater input from department directors aligned with sustainability efforts and provides additional input from the Community, Mayor, and Common Council.

**FISCAL IMPACT(S)**

None.

**Passed by the following vote of all the Council Members elected voting in favor thereof:**

*Local Law A of 2024 was co-sponsored by Council Members Adams, Anane, Farrell, Flynn, Frederick, Hoey, Keegan, Kimbrough, Love, Robinson, Romero, Zamer*

Affirmative – Adams, Anane, Balarin, Clarke, Farrell, Flynn, Frederick, Hoey, Johnson, Keegan, Kimbrough, Love, Robinson, Romero, Zamer

Affirmative: 15 | Negative: 0 | Abstain: 0

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Common Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Common Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, Shaniqua Jackson, City Clerk and Clerk of the Common Council, do hereby certify that Local Law A of 2024 was passed at a meeting of the Albany Common Council on June 3, 2024.

In affirmation thereof, I hereto set my hand and affix The Seal of the City of Albany this 18th day of July, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shaniqua Jackson, Clerk of the Common Council