

Local Law Filing

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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 WALLKILL

Local Law No. FIVE (5) of the year 20²²

A local law (Insert Title) ESTABLISHING A SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM PROHIBITING THE REVIEW AND
APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WAREHOUSES
AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES IN THE TOWN OF WALLKILL.

Be it enacted by the TOWN BOARD of the
(Name of Legislative Body)

County City Town Village
(Select one.)

of WALLKILL

as follows:

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

TOWN OF WALLKILL

INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 5 OF 2022

A LOCAL LAW ENTITLED “A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM PROHIBITING THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WAREHOUSES AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES IN THE TOWN OF WALLKILL”

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Wallkill, County of Orange, State of New York as follows:

Section 1. **Title.**

This Local Law shall be referred to as “A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A six-MONTH MORATORIUM PROHIBITING THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WAREHOUSES AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES IN THE TOWN OF WALLKILL”.

Section 2. **Definitions.**

“Code” means the Town of Wallkill Code.

“Plan” means the Town of Wallkill Comprehensive Master Plan.

“Town” means the Town of Wallkill.

“Town Board” means the Town Board of the Town of Wallkill.

“Town Clerk” means the Town Clerk of the Town of Wallkill.

“Land Use Approvals” means site plan approvals, subdivision plats, special use permits, and variances.

“Warehouse” is defined in the Town of Wallkill Code Section 249-3.

“Distribution Facilities as defined in Town Code Section 249.26(14).

Section 3. **Legislative Findings, Purpose and Intent.**

The Town Board hereby finds that many economic and social impacts and trends have changed since the Town’s last review of its Comprehensive Plan. There is a current review being undertaken by the Town’s Comprehensive Master Plan Committee. Therefore, the Town Board hereby finds that there is a critical and compelling need, in the public interest as set forth herein, to impose a Moratorium on the review and approval of applications for the construction and development of warehouses and distribution facilities in the Town.

The Town Board recognizes the impact that warehouse or distribution facility development, or potential warehouse or distribution facility development in the Town may

have on the health, safety and general welfare of the Town, its inhabitants and visitors, and upon existing uses, public services, infrastructure, traffic and the environment in general. Presently, there are applications pending before the Town Planning Board that, if approved, would add in excess of four million additional square feet (4,000,000 sf) of warehouse space within the Town. This is an urgent situation, and these circumstances require that the Town Board review and update the Town's Plan in order to, inter alia, ensure that existing and future warehouses and distribution facilities are located in the appropriate zoning districts within the Town. Pending adoption of the aforesaid updated Plan, and any updated zoning regulations that result as a consequence thereof, it is necessary for the Town Board to take reasonable temporary measures to prohibit the review and approval of any land use applications relating to the construction and development of all warehouses and distribution facilities in all districts within the Town in order to protect the public interest and welfare.

The Town Board has created a Comprehensive Master Plan Committee to provide guidance and recommendations regarding updating the Plan, and to amend all required provisions in the Town Code and related land use regulations in a manner that is consistent with the most appropriate Plan, as may be amended, to encourage lawful, smart, and sustainable development in the Town.

Pursuant to the statutory powers vested in the Town to regulate and control land use and to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents, the Town Board of the Town of Wallkill hereby declares a six-month moratorium on the submission and processing of any applications of land use approvals, including site plan approvals, subdivision plats, special use permits, and variances (hereinafter "Land Use Approvals") for all Warehouses and Distribution Facilities within the Town pending the Town Board's completion and adoption of an update to the Comprehensive Plan and applicable zoning regulations.

Section 4. **Scope of Controls**

- A. During the effective period of this Local Law:
1. No permits shall be issued for the permitting, construction and/or installation of Warehouses or Distribution facilities in any districts within the Town without the approval of the Town Board of the Town of Wallkill, which approval will not be considered except in the event of proven hardship.
 2. The Town Planning Board shall not accept any application, grant any approval to, or continue the review of a subdivision plat, site plan, special use permit or other permit that includes the permitting, construction and/or development of a Warehouse or Distribution Facility in any districts within the Town or would have as a result of the enlargement, relocation, or modification of an existing Warehouse or Distribution Facility.
 3. The Town Zoning Board of Appeals shall not accept any application or grant any approval for a variance or other permit that would have as a result the permitting, construction and development of a Warehouse or Distribution Facility in any districts within the Town.
 4. The Town of Wallkill Building Department shall not accept any building permit

application or grant any Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Compliance for any Warehouse or Distribution Facility.

Section 5. Specific Exemptions.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following are hereby exempt from the moratorium and may proceed with the usual permitting and licensing procedures as are currently provided by the Town Code.

- A. Any Warehouse or Distribution Facility project that has received a Negative Declaration (Notice of Determination of Non-Significance) from the lead agency charged with reviewing the proposed project pursuant to Title 6, Chapter VI, Part 617 of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Regulations (“SEQR”) or if said lead agency has accepted a fully completed Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”) for review in the event that a Positive Declaration pursuant to the SEQR regulations has been issued.
- B. Any proposed warehouse or distribution facility having a maximum cumulative gross area of forty thousand (40,000) square feet and no more than three (3) truck docks per parcel. A single parcel shall not be subdivided to create independent lots for the purpose of proposing more than one forty thousand (40,000) square foot warehouse and/or distribution facility.
- C. Any proposed warehouse or distribution facility that has received final project approval from the Town Planning Board prior to the effective date of this Local Law, including any property owner and/or applicant has received a lawful extension which has not expired.
- D. Building permits and certificates of occupancy may be issued for the repair of damage to any previously approved Warehouse or Distribution Facility.

Section 6. Term.

The moratorium imposed by this Local Law shall be in effect for six months from the effective date of this Local Law.

Section 7. Hardship.

- A. Should any owner of property affected by this Local Law suffer an unnecessary and extraordinary hardship due to the enactment and application of this Local Law, then the owner of said property may apply to the Town Board of the Town of Wallkill in writing for a variance from strict compliance with this Local Law upon submission of proof of such unnecessary hardship. For the purposes of this Local Law, unnecessary or extraordinary hardship shall not be:
 - a. the mere concern that regulations may be changed or adopted, or that the Plan may be amended; or
 - b. the mere delay in being permitted to make an application or waiting for a

decision on the application for a variance, special permit, site plan, subdivision, or other permit during the period of the moratorium imposed by this Local Law.

- B. An application for an exception based upon unnecessary or extraordinary hardship shall be filed with the Town Clerk no earlier than the effective date of this Local Law, including a fee of one thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each tax map parcel claimed to be subject to unnecessary or extraordinary hardship, by the landowner or the applicant upon the consent of the landowner. The application shall provide a recitation of the specific facts that are alleged to support the claim of unnecessary or extraordinary hardship and shall contain such other information and/or documentation as the Town Board, shall prescribe as necessary for the Town Board to be fully informed with respect to the application.
- C. Procedure. Upon submission of a written application to the Town Clerk by the property owner seeking a variance from this Local Law, the Town Board shall, within forty-five (45) days of receipt of a completed application, schedule a Public Hearing on said application upon five (5) days' written notice in the official newspaper of the Town of Wallkill. At said Public Hearing, the property owner and any other parties wishing to present evidence with regard to the application shall have an opportunity to be heard, and the Town Board shall, within thirty (30) days of the close of said Public Hearing, render its decision either granting, denying, granting in part or denying in part, the application for a variation from the strict requirements of this Local Law. If the Town Board determines that a property owner will suffer an unnecessary or extraordinary hardship if this Local Law is strictly applied to a particular property, then the Town Board shall vary the application to this Local Law to the minimum extent necessary to provide the property owner relief from strict compliance with this Local Law.
- D. Standard of Review. In reviewing an application for an exception based upon a claim of unnecessary or extraordinary hardship, the Town Board shall consider the following criteria:
 - a. The extent to which the proposed development activity would cause significant environmental harm, adversely impact surrounding natural resource areas, public health, comfort or safety concerns and/or have a negative impact upon the Town.
 - b. Whether the moratorium will expose a property owner or applicant to substantial monetary liability to a third person or would leave the property owner or applicant completely unable, after a thorough review of alternative solutions, to have a reasonable alternative use of the property.

Section 8. Penalties.

Any person, firm or entity that shall construct and/or develop a Warehouse or

Distribution Facility in any district within the Town or would have as a result the enlargement, relocation, or modification of an existing Warehouse or Distribution Facility in violation of the provisions of this Local Law or shall otherwise violate any of the provisions of this Local Law shall be subject to:

- A. Such penalties as may otherwise be provided by applicable local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations of the Town for violations; and
- B. A fine not to exceed \$2,500.00 per day from the date that any action is taken in contravention of this local law or imprisonment for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) days, or both such fine and imprisonment, together with any other civil remedies available at law; and
- C. Injunctive relief in favor of the Town to cease any and all such actions which conflict with this Local Law and, if necessary, to remove any construction that may have taken place in violation of this Local Law.

Any application accepted or approval granted in violation of this Local Law shall be null and void.

Section 9. Superseding and Repealer Provisions.

This Local Law shall supersede the Town of Wallkill Zoning Code in its entirety, the applicable sections of Article 16 of the Town Law, including, but not necessarily limited to Sections 130, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 267, 267-a, 267-b, 268, 269, 274-a, 274-b, 276, 277 and 278, 279 and Executive Law Section 381 to the extent inconsistent with the same and to the extent permitted by the New York State Constitution, the Municipal Home Rule Law or any other statute determined to be in conflict with the provisions hereof.

Section 10. Severability.

If any part or provision of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the part or provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this Local Law or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances, and the Town Board of the Town of Wallkill hereby declares that it would have passed this Local Law or the remainder thereof had such invalid application or invalid provision been apparent.

Section 11. Repeal.

All ordinances, local laws and parts thereof inconsistent with this Local Law are hereby repealed.

Section 12. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

(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. FIVE (5) of 2022 of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of WALLKILL was duly passed by the TOWN BOARD on NOVEMBER 2022, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

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) (repassed after disapproval) by the _____ and was deemed duly adopted 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) (repassed after disapproval) by the _____ on _____ 20____.

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) (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 1 above.

Thomas M. Pizzanini

Clerk of the county legislative body, City, Town or Village Clerk or officer designated by local legislative body

Date: November 17, 2022

(Seal)