

Introduced by: Legislator Mazi Melesa Pilip

Cosponsored by: Presiding Officer Howard J. Kopel, Deputy Presiding Officer Thomas McKeivitt, Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer John R. Ferretti, Jr., and Legislators Patrick Mullaney, John J. Giuffré, Scott Strauss, Michael Giangregorio, C. William Gaylor, III, Rose Marie Walker, Samantha Goetz, and James Kennedy

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. ____

A LOCAL LAW TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF A MASK OR FACIAL COVERING FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONCEALING AN INDIVIDUAL’S IDENTITY IN A PUBLIC PLACE

BE IT ENACTED by the County Legislature of the County of Nassau, as follows:

§1. **Short Title.** This law shall be known as the “ ” and shall appear in the Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau County as Title 91.

§2. **Legislative Intent.**

This Legislature finds that masks and facial coverings that are not worn for legitimate health and safety concerns or for religious or celebratory purposes are often used as a predicate to harassing, menacing or criminal behavior.

Therefore, the primary purpose of this law is to prohibit the wearing of masks or other facial covering in public unless such mask is worn for the purposes of protecting the wearer’s health or safety or for religious or celebratory purposes.

§3. **Prohibition on wearing of masks or facial coverings for the purposes of concealing an individual’s identity in public places.** No person or persons over 16 years of age shall, while wearing any mask or facial covering whereby the face or voice is disguised with the intent to conceal the identity of the wearer, enter, or appear upon or within any sidewalk, walkway, alley, street, road, highway or other public right-of-way or public property or private property without the consent of the owner or tenant. This law shall not apply to facial coverings worn to protect the health or safety of the wearer, for religious or cultural purposes, or for the peaceful celebration of a holiday or similar religious or cultural event for which masks or facial coverings are customarily worn. For each exception to this law, a law enforcement officer may require a person or persons to remove the mask during traffic stops or when the officer has reasonable suspicion of criminal activity and/or intention to partake in criminal activity.

§4. **Penalties.** Any person that violates any provision of this law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both.

§5. **Severability:** If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership entity or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which order or judgment shall be rendered.

§6. **SEQRA Determination**

It is hereby determined by the Nassau County Legislature, the lead agency, and pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), 8 NYECL section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 NYCRR, and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that this Local Law will not have a significant impact on the environment and that no further environmental review or action is required.

§7. **Effective Date:** This law shall take effect immediately after becoming a law.