

Introduced by Presiding Officer Richard Nicoletto, Minority Leader Kean Abrahams,  
Dep. Pres. Officer Howard Kopel, Alt. Dep Pres Officer Denise Ford, Legislators Carrie Solages  
Debra Mule, C. William Gaylor, Vincent Muscarella, Ellen Birnbaum, Delia DeRiggiWhitton, James  
Kennedy, Thomas McKeivitt, Laura Schaefer, John Ferretti Jr, Arnold Drucker, Rose Marie Walker,  
Joshua Lafazan, Steven Rhoads

**Amendment in the Nature of a Substitution – Clerk Item Number 68-19**

LOCAL LAW 5 -2019

A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF ASIAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Passed by the Nassau County Legislature on April 22, 2019

Voting: Ayes: 16, Nays 1, Abstained: 0

Became a local law on April 30, 2019 with the approval of the County Executive

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
  
Majority Counsel

WHEREAS, Asian population has grown tremendously within the past few years, and is an emerging community within Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, the largescale presence of the Asian community in Nassau County warrants more than merely an advisory committee without a budget, specified powers and duties, or staff to provide assistance to the committee; and

WHEREAS, instead, Nassau County should establish a county office for Asian Nassau County residents, with a budget for an Executive Director, deputies, officers, and employees, which is empowered to assist with delivery of Nassau County services to the Asian community, provide the Asian community with access to possible business opportunities with Nassau County, and inform the county of issues affecting the Asian community, as well as how Nassau County policies impact the Asian community; and

WHEREAS, the Nassau County Legislature wishes to establish the Office of Asian American Affairs; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. § 2114 is added to the County Government Law of Nassau County as follows:

§ 2114. Office of Asian American Affairs (AAA)

1. There shall be an office of county government known as the Office of Asian American Affairs, the head of which shall be the Executive Director of the Office of Asian American Affairs, who shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. The Executive Director of the Office of Asian American Affairs shall receive such compensation as may be provided by ordinance. The Executive Director of the Office of Asian American Affairs shall have the power to appoint such deputies, officers and employees of the Office of Asian American Affairs as may be provided by ordinance, and the Office shall have adequate staffing to accomplish its mission.
2. The purpose of the Office of Asian American Affairs shall be the development, advancement and betterment of economic, employment, business and cultural opportunities for the Asian American residents of the county. The Office of Asian American Affairs shall serve as a central coordinating body for county-funded and county-assisted agencies or offices involved in any of the foregoing purposes.
3. The Office of Asian American Affairs shall have the following powers and duties:
  - a. Assist the various officers of the county government in improving the delivery of quality of life services such as social services, mental health, health services, public works projects involving the Asian American community and public safety.
  - b. Provide the County Executive and the County Legislature with the "Asian American Community Impact" assessments on budgetary actions and policies.
  - c. Provide access and opportunity for Asian American participation in county contract and procurement programs.
  - d. Develop and improve the county's Women and Minority Business Enterprise programs to afford greater opportunities to participate in public contract bidding procedures as well as exploring ways and means to assure their participation.
  - e. Produce and publish any research papers or studies on issues affecting the Asian community.

- f. Assist the county in the establishment of programs that support further engagement in economic activity and investment by Asian Americans in the county, promote awareness amongst the County's citizens about Asian culture and encourage inclusion for Asian Americans within the county.
- g. Engage with other county departments and agencies to address the needs and concerns of the growing Asian population in the county, promote diversity and inclusion in programs and initiatives, and perform such other duties as may be directed by the County Executive or the Legislature.

4.

- a. An Asian American Advisory Council is hereby established to advise the Executive Director of the Office of Asian American Affairs on matters concerning the purposes for which the Office of Asian American Affairs is created, as set forth in subdivision two of this section. The Asian American Advisory Council shall consist of not less than nine members, and not more than 20 members, who shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. Prior to the appointment of any person to serve in such position, or to fill a vacancy in any such position, the County Executive shall solicit and take into consideration recommendations to fill such position from the general public and from groups within the county that have been involved in the purposes for which the Office of Asian American Affairs is created. The term of each member shall be four years. Further, the County Executive also shall appoint to the Asian American Advisory Council such representatives of groups within the county that are, in the County Executive's judgment, involved in fulfilling the purposes for which the Office of Asian American Affairs is created, or which otherwise may be deserving of representation on the Asian American Advisory Council in order for the Office of Asian American Affairs to be able effectively to fulfill its purposes. To ensure a balanced and representative Asian American Advisory Council, effort shall be taken to ensure that appointees reflect the diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds found amongst Nassau County's Asian residents. In no event shall the Executive Director of the Office of Asian American Affairs serve on the Asian American Advisory Council, however the Executive Director or the designee of the Office of Asian American Affairs shall attend the Asian American Advisory Council meetings and assist the Council in the conduct of its meetings.
- b. If at any time the County Executive shall create or recognize any advisory committee or similar body that the County Executive determines to be involved in fulfilling the purposes for which the Office of Asian American Affairs is created, the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature, may appoint a representative of such committee or body to the Asian American Advisory Council.

- c. The Asian American Advisory Council shall elect its own officers.
- d. Any group, organization, agency, advisory committee or similar body that is represented on the Asian American Advisory Council as provided nevertheless shall continue to operate as an independent office and shall continue to provide its respective services and to implement policy involving such services, in addition to its responsibility for serving on the Asian American Agency.

§2. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person 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 hereof, 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 or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

§3. SEQRA Determination

It is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L., section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that the adoption of this local law is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(20) and (27) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.

§4. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately.

**APPROVED**

  
**County Executive**

**DATE** 4-30-19