

**A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND
ABOLISHING THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND THE WATER QUALITY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF ONONDAGA
AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

It is the desire of the Onondaga County Legislature to ensure that the Onondaga County Commissioner of Health, the Onondaga County Executive and the Onondaga County Legislature have the benefit of informed and objective citizens' advice regarding issues of environmental health, including but not limited to issues involving air quality, water quality, public water supply, wastewater treatment, land use and the handling and disposal of solid and hazardous waste and materials. Establishment by the County of Onondaga of a Council on Environment Health is a necessary step to protect the public health within the County.

Section 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Onondaga County Legislature hereby creates and establishes the Council on Environmental Health.

Section 3. MEMBERSHIP AND TERM.

The Council shall consist of nine members to be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Onondaga County Legislature. Said members shall serve for a term of two years and shall have backgrounds or an interest in health sciences, natural sciences, water resources, engineering, land use, agriculture, law or administration. Ex Officio, non-voting members shall include the following or their designees: the Onondaga County Commissioner of Health; the Onondaga County Commissioner of Drainage & Sanitation; the Administrator of the Onondaga County Metropolitan Water Board; the Onondaga County Commissioner of Transportation; the Director of the Onondaga County Planning Agency; and the Chairman of the Onondaga County Legislature. Additional Ex Officio, non-voting members shall include a designee of the Onondaga County Water Authority, the City of Syracuse Water Department and the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Members shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed and qualify. No member shall serve more than three consecutive two year terms.

The County Executive shall fill vacancies which occur during a term for the balance of the term, in like manner as original appointments.

Section 4. OFFICERS, MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES.

The Council shall elect from its members a chairperson and a vice chairperson. General staff and secretarial services shall be provided by the Onondaga County Health Department.

The Council shall meet at least six times per year and may establish such committees as it deems necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities.

Section 5. POWERS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council shall:

A. Offer oversight of all air, water and land use related programs and related activities within the County.

B. Provide information and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Health, the County Executive and the County Legislature on matters involving environmental health, including but not limited to issues concerning air quality, water quality, public water supply, wastewater treatment, land use and the handling and disposal of solid and hazardous waste and materials.

C. Review and facilitate the coordination of activities of County officers, agencies, departments and other entities having substantial impact on environmental issues.

D. The Council shall, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health or his or her designee, adopt rules of procedure. The Council shall file an annual report and such other reports requested by the Commissioner of Health or his or her designee.

Section 6. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.

Members of the Council and ex officio members shall receive no compensation for their services as members thereof, but may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within appropriations which may be available therefor through the Onondaga County Health Department.

Section 7. CONSTRUCTION.

This Local Law shall be deemed an exercise of the powers of the County to protect and improve the air, water and land, and to protect the health of the County's residents. This local law shall not be deemed to impair the powers, duties or responsibilities of any County Officer, Department or Agency, nor shall opinions and recommendations of the Council be legally binding or have a force of law in regard to the Commissioner of Health or any other department or agency of the County of Onondaga.

Section 8. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ABOLISHED.

Local Law No. 3 of 1972 establishing the Environmental Management Council is hereby repealed and said Council is hereby abolished.

Section 9. WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ABOLISHED.

Local Law No. 5 of 1986 establishing the Water Quality Management Agency is hereby repealed and said Agency is hereby abolished.

Section 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Local Law shall take effect January 1, 1997 and shall be filed pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law.

WATERQUALL
EP/MEB
/ds

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