



**THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REVIEW
MAURICE CHALMERS, DIRECTOR
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

TITLE: A Local Law to establish the Office of Asian American Affairs.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION:

The proposed Local Law seeks to create the Office of Asian American Affairs (AAA) to serve as a central coordinating body for county-funded and county-assisted agencies or offices involved in representing the Asian community. It also establishes the Asian American Advisory Council to advise the Executive Director of the AAA on matters concerning the purposes for which the AAA is created, including the development, advancement and betterment of the Asian American residents of the County.

The Office of Asian American Affairs shall have the following structure and powers:

- The Executive Director shall be the head of the office, who is appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Legislature.
 - Prior to the appointment of the Executive Director, the County Executive shall take into consideration the candidate or candidates recommended by the Asian American Advisory Council.
 - The Executive Director shall receive such compensation as may be provided by ordinance.
 - Subject to sufficient budget appropriations, the Executive Director shall have the power to appoint such deputies, officers and employees of the AAA.
- 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 community and public safety.
- Provide the County Executive and County Legislature with the “Asian American Community Impact” assessments on budgetary actions and policies.
- Provide access and opportunity for Asian American participation in County contract and procurement programs.
- 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.
- Produce and publish any research papers or studies on issues affecting the Asian community.

- 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.
- 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 the programs and initiatives, and perform such other duties as may be directed by the County Executive or the Legislature.

The Asian American Advisory Council shall have the following structure and powers:

- The Council shall be made up of no less than nine members and no more than 20 members that serve at the pleasure of the County Executive, who appoints them, and are confirmed by the Legislature.
 - The term of each member shall be four years.
 - Prior to the appointment of any person to serve in 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.
 - To represent a balanced and representative 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 should attend the Asian American Advisory Council meetings and assist the Council in the conduct of its meetings.
- If at any time the County Executive decides to create or recognize any advisory committee or similar body involved with supporting the Asian American community, the County Executive may appoint a representative of such committee or body to the Asian American Advisory Council, subject to County Legislature confirmation.
- The Council shall elect its own officers.
- Any group, organization, agency advisory committee or similar body that is represented on the Asian American Advisory Council shall continue to operate as an independent office and continue to provide its respective services and implement policy involving such services, in addition to its responsibility for serving on the AAA.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This Local Law shall take effect immediately after enactment by the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPACT:

A new budget appropriation will need to be created for the office. The Office of Asian American Affairs's financial cost is expected to be similar to the budget appropriation of both the Coordinating Agency for Spanish Americans (CASA) and the Office of Minority Affairs. The FY 19 Adopted Budget for CASA includes personnel expense and Other Than Personal Services (OTPS) of \$243,563 and \$3,249, respectively, for a total of \$246,812. CASA's budget includes four employees. The Office of Minority Affairs budget includes personnel expense of \$465,150

for six employees and \$54,569 for OTPS, for a total of \$519,719. Pursuant to the legislation, the office must have sufficient staffing to accomplish its mission.

According to the testimony from the Committee hearing on April 8, 2019, the Administration plans to fill the Executive Director position immediately with the current Director of the Asian American Advisory Board.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The proposed law is not expected to have any significant economic impact on the local economy.

PREPARED BY: Ivonne Puente, Legislative Budget Analyst

SOURCES:

Government Affairs

Majority Counsel

Minority Counsel