

**Local Law Allowing Members of the Town Board to Participate in Town Board Meetings
via Videoconference From Locations Outside the Town of Forestport Boundary Lines**

Local Law No 1 of the year 2022
Town of FORESTPORT, County of ONEIDA

A local law to authorize members of the Town Board, Board of Assessment Review and/or Planning Board to participate in board meetings videoconferencing from locations outside the town of FORESTPORT'S geographical limits.

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to give town board, board of assessment review and planning board members the authority to participate in board meetings via videoconference from locations that fall outside the town's geographical boundaries. Videoconferencing has proven to be an effective and useful tool for town meetings that allows members to participate despite issues such as inclement weather, illness, or travel plans. Videoconferencing also helps ameliorate potential quorum issues so that the town is able to address business and matters in a more timely fashion.

Although Public Officers Law § 102 expressly allows members of a public body to attend and participate in meetings using videoconferencing, Town Law § 62 states that town board, board of assessment review and/or planning board meetings must take place within the town thereby making it unclear if a board member may participate via videoconference from a location outside the town's boundaries. This local law is meant to expressly provide that authority to members of the town board, board of assessment review and planning board.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 10 which expressly authorizes the town board to adopt a local law superseding any provision of Town Law relating to the property, affairs or government of the town.

Section 3. Videoconferencing from Outside Town Limits

The Town Board of the Town of FORESTPORT hereby supersedes Town Law § 62 to expressly allow town board, board of assessment review and/or Planning Board members to participate in meetings using videoconferencing from locations that fall outside the geographical limitations of the town.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted 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, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective date.

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

1- Nancy Kardash
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Gracy M. Leroy

