



## ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL AUGUST 2024 UPDATES

Dear neighbors,

Welcome to the Common Council's official newsletter. Here you'll find resources to help you get involved with legislating in the City of Albany. You'll also find updates on legislation that the Council has recently passed and details on where to view the legislation that it's considering now.

We hope that these resources empower you to become an active part of the Council's work. Whether it's approaching [your councilmember](#) with an idea or commenting on pending legislation at a meeting, your participation makes the difference.

Please take a few moments to read through this newsletter, and please feel free to reach out to us.

Respectfully yours,

The Albany Common Council

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### Join the Conversation

The Albany Common Council relies on public participation in every step of its legislative process. If you're looking to speak or write on an item on the Council's agenda, head to our website to submit a public comment. Please note that any information that you provide will be shared with all Common Council members and/or read for the Record at our meeting. All public comment is memorialized on our website and our social media platforms.

**In-Person:** 24 Eagle Street, Room 202

**Online:** <https://www.albanyny.gov/2187/Albany-Common-Council>

**By Phone:** (518) 434-5087

**By Email:** [commoncouncil@albanyny.gov](mailto:commoncouncil@albanyny.gov)



## Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

August 5, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
August 7, 5:30 PM	Housing and Community Development Committee
August 14, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session
August 19, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
August 28, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session

All meetings are livestreamed and recorded on the Common Council's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. You can find meeting agendas, the supporting legislation and more in the Common Council's [Agenda Center](#).

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## A Constituent's Guide to the Albany Common Council, Part 13: Hop on Board!

*Each month, we'll go back to basics on all things Common Council.*

Have you ever wondered how you could be more engaged in Albany? Look no further—join a City of Albany board or commission! The City is made up of several boards that allow Albany residents to have an influence on the issues and projects most important to them.

Once the Common Council creates a commission or board, the Mayor or the Common Council—whichever is responsible for appointing members—searches for interested individuals to get involved. Members across all the boards and commissions must be City of Albany residents, possess a reputation of fairness and integrity, and reflect the diversity of city.

Each board has different powers and responsibilities. For instance, the Planning Board reviews site plans submitted by those wishing to develop land in the City, while the Sustainability Commission focuses on advancing sustainable practices and uniting action on climate change within Albany. Click [here](#) to see a full list of Albany's boards and commissions.

The Common Council is currently looking for applicants to serve on the [Commission of Human Rights](#) and the [Task Force on the Municipal Flag](#). Members of the Commission on Human Rights seek to assure that the residents of our City are safeguarded against all forms of discrimination in violation of state and local law. Members of the Task Force on the Municipal Flag will be responsible for creating a contest where the public can submit proposals for a new City of Albany flag. The task force will review submissions, choose finalists, and create a forum for members of the public to vote and select the new flag! If you are interested in either board, submit a letter of intent describing qualifications and a resume to [commoncouncil@albanyny.gov](mailto:commoncouncil@albanyny.gov).

Keep your eyes on our [Call for Applications](#) page and our [Facebook](#) so you don't miss an opportunity to apply to the board or commission that has piqued your interest!

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## **Committee Reports**

### **Human Resources and Human Rights Committee**

The committee met on July 8 to discuss implementing family leave benefits for City employees (Ordinance 16.51.24) and establishing an ad hoc committee on Ethics and Workforce Culture (Resolution 64.61.24). The full texts of the legislation can be found [here](#). Both passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation.

### **Public Safety**

The committee met on July 9 and July 17 to discuss transitioning the Community Police Review Board into the City structure (Local Law D of 2024). At the July 17 meeting, the local law passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation. The full text of the legislation can be found [here](#).

### **General Services, Health and Environment**

The committee met on July 15 to discuss honorary street dedications for Ronald Russo and Pastor Willie Stovall (Resolutions 69.62.24R and 70.62.24R, respectively). The full texts of the legislation can be found [here](#). Both passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation.

### **Finance, Assessment and Taxation**

The committee met on July 31 to discuss the City of Albany Reassessment Project, Grievances, and Appeals. The meeting recording can be found [here](#).

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## **Legislation Passed**

### **Local Law M of 2022 Sponsored by Zamer**

A local law amending Chapter 359 (Vehicles and Traffic) reducing the speed limit of the City of Albany from 30 to 25 miles per hour

### **Local Law H of 2024 Sponsored by Zamer**

A local law amending Local Law M of 2022 (As Amended 06/17/2024) in relation to the effective date thereof

### **Ordinance 12.51.24 Sponsored by Love**

An ordinance amending Chapter 375 of the Code of the City of Albany (Unified Sustainable Development Ordinance) by changing the zoning classification of parcel known as 139 Lark Street from Residential Townhouse (R-T) to Mixed Use-Community Urban (MU-CU) and amending the zoning map accordingly

### **Ordinance 13.51.24 Sponsored by Robinson**

An ordinance amending Chapter 375 of the Chapter 375 of the Code of the City of Albany (Unified Sustainable Development Ordinance) by changing the zoning classification of parcels known as 184 through 196 Livingston Avenue from Residential Townhouse (R-T) to Mixed Use-Neighborhood Edge (MU-NE) and amending the zoning map accordingly

### **Ordinance 16.51.24 (MC) Sponsored by Keegan**

An ordinance amending Article IV (Grant of Vacations; Sick Leaves; Leaves of Absence) Chapter 62 (Labor) of the Code of the City of Albany in relation to implementing family leave benefits for City employees

**Resolution 64.61.24R Sponsored by Robinson**

A resolution approving the establishment of an ad hoc committee of the Common Council on Ethics and Workforce Culture

**Resolution 69.62.24R Sponsored by Flynn**

A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Ronald Russo and renaming a portion of Cardinal Avenue in his honor

**Resolution 70.62.24R Sponsored by Kimbrough**

A resolution honoring the contributions of Pastor Willie James Stovall, Sr. to the City of Albany and renaming a portion of Livingston Avenue in his honor

**Resolution 72.71.24R Sponsored by Adams**

A resolution of the Common Council declaring itself lead agency for the State Environmental Quality Review of the Lincoln Park Pool Project and issuing a negative declaration

**Resolution 73.71.24R Sponsored by Hoey**

A resolution celebrating July 4, 2024 as Independence Day

**Resolution 74.71.24R Sponsored by Keegan**

A resolution designating July as Disability Pride Month in the City of Albany

**Resolution 75.72.24R Sponsored by Balarin**

A resolution of the Common Council declaring its intent to act as lead agency for the State Environmental Quality Review of Ordinance 10.42.24 and declaring it a Type I action

**Resolution 76.72.24R Sponsored by Romero**

A resolution of the Common Council declaring its intent to act as lead agency for the State Environmental Quality Review of the Washington Park Playground Project

**Resolution 78.72.24R Sponsored by Balarin**

A resolution supporting the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region, Inc. in its application to New York State Homes and Community Renewal for state assistance in funding the Capital Region Community Investment Trust in the City of Albany

**Resolution 79.72.24R Sponsored by Romero**

A resolution supporting the City of Albany in its application to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Environmental Protection Fund for state assistance in funding the Washington Park Playground Improvements Project

**Resolution 80.72.24R Sponsored by Romero**

A resolution supporting the City of Albany in its application to New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation for state assistance in funding the Washington Park Complete Streets Implementation Project

**Resolution 81.72.24R (MC) Sponsored by Kimbrough**

A resolution recognizing the contributions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ Church to the City of Albany and renaming a portion of Walter Street in its honor

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For the latest information on introduced and held legislation, please visit the Common Council's [Agenda Center](#).