



ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL JULY 2023 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

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/189/Albany-Common-Council>

By Phone: (518) 434-5087

By Email: commoncouncil@albanyny.gov



Upcoming Public Meetings

July 6, 6:00 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
July 10, 5:30 PM	General Services, Health & Environment Committee
July 12, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session
July 17, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
July 25, 5:30 PM	Planning, Economic Development & Land Use Committee

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

A Constituent's Guide to the Albany Common Council, Part 1: What is the Common Council?

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

The Common Council is the legislative branch of Albany's government. That makes it similar to Congress or to the New York State Legislature—each is responsible for making laws, among other legislation, and each is made up of democratically elected representatives. But when it comes to each body's responsibilities and membership, there are important differences.

The Council's job is to introduce, adopt, amend or repeal local laws, ordinances, resolutions and regulations related to property and government affairs within the City of Albany. So while it often works with other municipalities and with the State of New York to achieve its goals, any action that the Council takes is focused on Albany. These responsibilities were first outlined by the [City Charter](#)—the document that established Albany as a city—in 1686.

The City Charter also divides Albany into [15 legislative districts](#). These districts are more commonly called wards, and each ward elects one of its residents to a four-year term as a representative of its interests on the Common Council. Ward leaders listen to constituent concerns, propose and debate legislation, and help chart Albany's course into the future.

Common Council News

[Councilmembers Help Award \\$635,000 in Small Business Building Improvement Grants](#)

[Common Council Recognizes June 12, 2023 as the 125th Anniversary of Philippine Independence in the City of Albany Ahead of July 1 Celebrations](#)

[Common Council Recognizes David Graham and Ron "Cook" Barrett, Cofounders of Gang Prevention Teen Nite](#)

[Common Council Welcomes Asylum-Seekers, Requests 30-Day Employment Authorization from Federal Government](#)

[Common Council Declares June 2, 2023 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day, June as National Gun Violence Prevention Month](#)

[Common Council Declares the Week of June 19 as 518 Black Restaurant Week](#)

[Common Council Recognizes June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the City of Albany](#)

Legislation Passed

Local Law Q of 2022 Sponsored by Romero

A local law codifying the relationship between the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Community Police Review Board

Ordinance 13.32.23 Sponsored by Love

An ordinance amending the Code of the City of Albany in relation to prohibiting discrimination on the basis of hair texture and style

Ordinance 19.52.23 Sponsored by Kimbrough

An ordinance amending the Code of the City of Albany in relation to the authority of Common Council leadership to change or cancel Council meetings

Ordinance 21.61.23 Sponsored by Frederick

An ordinance amending the Code of the City of Albany in relation to explicitly protecting gender expression

Resolution 39.51.23R Sponsored by Anane

A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Sister Joan Byrne and renaming a portion of Madison Avenue in her honor

Resolution 50.52.23R Sponsored by Kimbrough

A resolution appointing Owusu Anane as a marriage officer

Resolution 53.61.23R Sponsored by Romero on Behalf of the Mayor

A resolution honoring the contributions of Harold and Ruth Rubin to the City of Albany and renaming a portion of Chestnut Street in their honor

Resolution 55.61.23R Sponsored by Love

A resolution endorsing the Albany County Historical Association's application to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation for a grant

Resolution 56.61.23R Sponsored by Balarin

A resolution appointing Kirk Daniels to the Public, Education and Government Access Oversight Board

Resolution 57.61.23R Sponsored by Anane

A resolution declaring June 2, 2023 to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day and proclaiming June 2023 as National Gun Violence Prevention Month in the City of Albany

Resolution 58.61.23R Sponsored by Robinson, Adams, Anane, Clarke, Farrell, Flynn, Hoey, Keegan, Kimbrough, Johnson, Love, Romero, Zamer and President Ellis

A resolution recognizing June 19, 2023 as “Juneteenth Independence Day” in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached those enslaved in the southwestern states

Resolution 59.61.23R Sponsored by Romero and Anane

A resolution recognizing June, 2023 as Caribbean-American Heritage Month in the City of Albany

Resolution 60.61.23R Sponsored by Romero and Keegan

A resolution recognizing and celebrating June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the City of Albany

Resolution 61.61.23R Sponsored by Robinson

A resolution honoring the sacrifice of the people of Bucha, Ukraine and encouraging further cooperation between our cities

Resolution 62.61.23R (MC) Sponsored by Farrell

A resolution welcoming asylum-seekers to the City of Albany and requesting 30-day employment authorization

Resolution 63.61.23R (MC) Sponsored by Anane

A resolution supporting the Clean Slate Act

Resolution 64.61.23R (MC) Sponsored by Adams

A resolution declaring the week of June 19th to be 518 Black Restaurant Week

Resolution 68.62.23R Sponsored by Romero and President Ellis

A resolution recognizing June 12, 2023, as the 125th Anniversary of Philippine Independence in the City of Albany

Resolution 70.62.23R Sponsored by Johnson

A resolution recognizing and celebrating the work of David Graham, Ron "Cook" Barret, and the YMCA in creating and running Gang Prevention Teen Nite

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