

Introduced by: Presiding Officer Richard J. Nicoello, Deputy Presiding Officer Howard J. Kopel, Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer Denise Ford, and Legislators C. William Gaylor III, Vincent T. Muscarella, James Kennedy, Thomas McKeivitt, Laura Schaefer, John R. Ferretti, Jr., Rose Marie Walker, and Steven Rhoads

LOCAL LAW 21 - 2019

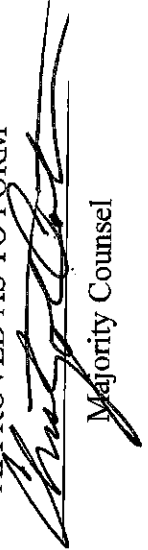
A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH WITHIN THE NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS DIVISION

Passed by the Nassau County Legislature on September 23, 2019

Voting: ayes: 18, nays: 0, abstained: 0

Became a law on October 21, 2019 with the approval of the County Executive

APPROVED AS TO FORM



Majority Counsel

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Nassau County Charter, the Division of Correction, subject to the supervision and control of the Sheriff, is responsible for the care, custody and transportation of felons, misdemeanants, violators of local laws and all others committed to its charge, or held within the county for any cause in criminal proceedings; and

WHEREAS, corrections officers face unique occupational stressors that pose serious threats to both mental and physical health; and

WHEREAS, these stressors include the nature of working in a closed environment and the constant threat of violence or injury that inmates can pose for corrections officers; and

WHEREAS, as a result of such stressors, corrections officers experience elevated rates of heart disease, hypertension, high blood pressure and diabetes, and suicide rates for corrections officers far exceed the national average; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT ENACTED by the County Legislature of the County of Nassau as follows:

Section 1. The Nassau County Administrative Code is amended to include the following section:

§20-3.0. Health and Wellness Division.

- a. There shall be within the Nassau County Department of Sheriff a Health and Wellness Division. It shall be the duty of the Division to provide health and wellness training and resources to the members of the Nassau County Department of Sheriff.

The Health and Wellness Division shall:

1. Maintain a smartphone application and website for active and retired Sheriff personnel to provide information on the signs of depression, signs of suicidal behavior, links to the American Foundation of the Prevention of Suicide and additional information as determined by the Sheriff to assist retired and active members of the Department of Sheriff;
2. establish and determine funding for a formal peer support program for Sheriff Department personnel;
3. provide in-service wellness training and resources for all Nassau County Sheriff Department personnel for a minimum of one-hour per calendar year;
4. establish a mental health action plan, to be evaluated by the Nassau County Sheriff annually, to examine the mental health policy, procedures, and resources of the Department and identify necessary updates;
5. establish guidelines to protect the privacy of police officers to the maximum extent allowable by law;
6. perform such other duties as determined by the Sheriff.

§2. Severability.

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

§3. SEQRA Determination.

It is hereby determined pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8. N.Y.E.C.L., section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that the adoption of this local law is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617(c)(20) and (27) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment, and no further review is required.

§4. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED



County Executive

DATE 10-21-19