



**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

1. ROLL CALL
2. NEW BUSINESS
 - 2.1. Local Law 1 - 2025 - Written Notice of Defect

LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2025

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE PROVISIONS IN THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE OF DEFECTS IN LIGHT OF THE DECISION OF THE NEW YORK COURT OF APPEALS IN CALABRESE V CITY OF ALBANY, 2024 WL 5126038 (Dec. 17, 2024)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Purpose of this Enactment.

The purpose of this enactment is to amend the provisions in the City Charter regarding the requirements for prior written notice of defects in light of the Decision of the New York Court of Appeals in the recent case of Calabrese v City of Albany, 2024 WL 5126038 (Dec. 17, 2024)

Section 2. Section 30 of the Charter of the City of Middletown, Notification of defects; limitations on City liability, is hereby amended to replace Paragraph A, thereof, to read in its entirety as follows:

A. No civil action may be maintained against the City for damages or injury to person or property sustained in consequence of any street, highway, bridge, culvert, sidewalk, crosswalk, public building or public park being defective, out of repair, unsafe, dangerous, or obstructed unless, before the occurrence resulting in such damages or injury, (1) notice of the defective, unsafe, dangerous or obstructed condition was delivered to the City Clerk at 16 James Street, Middletown in the form of a written physical hard copy and (2) the City failed or neglected to repair or

remove the defect, danger, or obstruction within a reasonable time after being given such notice. Notice of a defect submitted via email, the City's website, any service, website, or application the City uses to allow the public to submit reports or service requests to the City, comments on a social media page maintained by the City, or any other electronic means does not satisfy the process and procedure for submitting written notices of defect required by this Paragraph.

Section 3. Section 30 of the Charter of the City of Middletown, Notification of defects; limitations on City liability, is hereby amended to replace Paragraph B, thereof, to read in its entirety as follows:

B. No civil action may be maintained against the City for damages or injury to person or property sustained in consequence of the existence of snow or ice upon any sidewalk, crosswalk or street unless, before the occurrence resulting in such damages or injury, (1) notice thereof relating to the particular place was delivered to the City Clerk at 16 James Street, Middletown, New York in the form of a written physical hard copy and (2) the City failed or neglected to cause such snow or ice to be removed, or to otherwise reasonably make safe the place within a reasonable time after being given such notice. Notice of a defect submitted via email, the City's website, any service, website, or application the City uses to allow the public to submit reports or service requests to the City, comments on a social media page maintained by the City, or any other electronic means does not satisfy the process and procedure for submitting written notices of defect required by this Paragraph.

Section 4. Section 30 of the Charter of the City of Middletown, Notification of defects; limitations on City liability, is hereby amended to replace Paragraph C, thereof, to read in its entirety as follows:

C. All claims against the City for damages or injury to persons or property alleged to have been caused by the misfeasance or negligence of the City, or any of its officers or employees, shall be presented to the City Clerk at 16 James Street, Middletown in the form of a written physical hard copy within ninety (90) days after the happening of the accident or injury out of which the claim arose. Such writing shall describe the time when, the particular place where, and the circumstances under which damages or injuries were sustained, and the cause thereof. It shall also state so far as then practicable the nature and extent of the damages or injury. It shall also state the place of residence of the claimant by street and number, and if there be no street and number, it shall contain such statement as will disclose the place of residence, and all such claims shall be verified by the oath of the claimant. A copy of each such claim shall be served by mail on the Corporation Counsel. The omission to present such claim within ninety (90) days of such alleged injuries and to commence an action thereon within one (1) year from the time of such alleged injuries shall be a bar to any claim or action therefor against the City, but no action shall be brought upon any such claim until three (3) months have elapsed after the presentation of the claim to the City Clerk. Notice of a claim submitted via email, the City's website, any service, website, or application the City uses to allow the public to submit reports or service requests to the City, comments on a social media page maintained by the City, or any other electronic

means does not satisfy the process and procedure for submitting written notices of claim required by this Paragraph.

Section 7. Severability. If the provisions of any article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this Local Law shall be judged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such order of judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this Local Law.

Section 8. Effective Date. This Local Law shall be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

3. ADJOURNMENT