

White Plains Council of Neighborhood Associations  
June Meeting

Tuesday, 6/10/2025

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 7pm

Attendees: Michael Sanchez, Michael Dalton, Leonard Gruenfeld, Frances Jones, Robert Kahn, Howard Waldman, Shawn Woodford, Debra Zipf

Guest Speakers: Ken Jenkins – Westchester County Executive

1. The Meeting was called to order by President Sanchez. President Sanchez welcomed our guest speaker County Executive Ken Jenkins. M. Sanchez gave a brief description of the Council of Neighborhoods Association's mission and its role in sharing information about all things "White Plains" with the individual neighborhood associations of our City.
2. K. Jenkins reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter sales tax revenue for the county was significantly down (-\$25 million). Consumer "uncertainty" and actions taking place at the Federal level are thought to be the reason for lower economic activity. The County will be keeping a close eye on the sales tax figures and their effect on County revenue projections.
3. K. Jenkins stated... creating and supporting affordable housing continues to be a focus for the County administration.
4. Mr. Jenkins stated... with the increase in powerful rainstorms due to climate change...the County has been working hard on Flood and Water Management initiatives throughout Westchester.
5. Mr. Jenkins stated.... The County's capital plan for this year is \$300 million.
6. Mr. Jenkins stated... the County runs an 18,000-acre Park System. The Playland amusement park will re-open for the summer of 2025.
7. Mr. Jenkins was one of the first to object to ConEd's proposed rate increases for 2026 and has called for ConEd to appear at a public hearing to review their requested rate increases at the County Center. The public hearing will be held on July 9<sup>th</sup> at the County Center.
8. Mr. Jenkins stated... to date the County has generated \$2.5 billion in Tourism and Film related projects.
9. F. Jones asked K. Jenkins where she could redeem credits on her Bee-line senior discount card. K. Jenkins explained that all things related to her Bee-line senior discount card can be addressed at the White Plains Transit Center Office that is located in the bus terminal across the street from the White Plains train station.
10. M. Dalton remarked that the extraordinary increases in ConEd utility bills over the past 2 years have place a huge burden on residents of White Plains...particularly on seniors living on fixed incomes. Mr. Jenkins agreed. It was the reason He led the effort to compel ConED to make its case for new rate increases before a public hearing at the County Center on July 9<sup>th</sup>. M. Dalton said the he understood that much of the utility infrastructure (that is in some cases is over 100 years old) does need to be replaced and paid for....but, the methodology that has been used to pay for these infrastructure improvements needs to be reexamined...so that our utility bills don't jump 150% in one year.
11. M. Sacher asked Mr. Jenkins to what extent is the County involved in the proposed re-development of the Galleria Mall in downtown White Plains? Mr. Jenkins explained that the re-development of the Galleria is a "White Plains project". The County was not really involved in the project. Mr. Jenkins did say that the project will include 500 units of affordable housing.... that cannot be "bought out" by the

developer. Mr. Jenkins did note that the “luxury” rental apartment market in White Plains may be reaching a saturation point and that has led the developer to suggest perhaps one of the 5 or 6 towers in the proposal might be made into an office building rather than rental apartments.

12. Mr. Jenkins commended the White Plains Housing Authority for its work in creating more affordable housing in White Plains....and cited the conversion of the former Berkeley College building on Church St. into “affordable home ownership” apartments as an example.
13. S. Woodford raised the issue of 50 parking spaces on the west side of the W.P train station (which are part of the County Center parking area) being converted to electric vehicle charging stations. This action has reduced the number of parking spaces available for non-EV owners commuting to NYC.... placing an undue burden for those commuters driving gasoline powered cars. Mr. Jenkins replied that he was not aware that the 50 parking spaces had been converted to EV charging stations. He said he would be looking into this matter and asked S. Woodford to contact him directly to follow up on this topic.
14. D. Zipf asked Mr. Jenkins if it was true that 3 people in Westchester had been seized and deported by ICE? Mr. Jenkins replied that he was not aware that the deportation of 3 people had occurred. Mr. Jenkins went on to explain that in Westchester County ICE is not allowed to detain any undocumented persons at County & Municipal facilities...like courts, police stations, city halls, etc. without a “Judicial Warrant”. ICE is allowed to detain persons at County facilities only if they do have a “Judicial Warrant”. ICE IS allowed to detain persons on any Federal property...like a Federal Court or Federal Building. (It is important to understand the distinction between a “Judicial Warrant” and a “Administrative Warrant”. A Judicial Warrant is an official court order signed by a judge that authorizes a search for private property, or arrest based on probable cause that a crime is being committed or has been committed. An ICE Administrative Warrant is a document, issued by a Federal Agency such as Homeland Security or Immigration & Customs Enforcement purporting to document their authority to arrest a person suspected of violating immigration laws. Administration Warrants are not signed by a neutral judge, but rather an immigration officer or immigration judge.)
15. K. Jenkins did explain that presence and activities of ICE in Westchester has sent persons of Hispanic heritage to retreat from public events. The County celebration of Hispanic Heritage Day will not take place because Hispanic organizations have declined to take part in the event. The same is true for the Ecuadorian Pride Day.
16. D. Zipf asked Mr. Jenkins if.... given the actions of Health Secretary Kennedy regarding vaccines and vaccinations of young children.... the County Health services can step in to ensure young children will be able to receive vaccinations. Mr. Jenkins explained that Secretary Kennedy’s proposal to change the “guidance” of young children’s vaccination regime....is just that...it is “Guidance” ...which means the County will continue to recommend and support vaccinations for young children. Westchester schools will continue to require all young children entering a school system to be vaccinated.
17. Pres. Sanchez thanked Mr. Jenkins for spending 1 hour speaking with and taking questions from the CNA members.
18. F. Jones asked, “aren’t children required to be vaccinated to attend school?” M. Sanchez replied, “Yes, in New York State children must be vaccinated to attend public schools. It is not the case in all states....in Connecticut...it is not a requirement.”
19. Pres. Sanchez noted that the June meeting will be the last CNA meeting until September. He reviewed the list of topics and speakers for upcoming CNA meetings in the fall and asked if there were any other suggestions. D. Zipf noted that in addition to a new mayor...we are likely to have new Common Council members to invite to a CNA meeting.
20. President Sanchez then thanked the attendees and closed the meeting.

