

# Local Law Filing

(Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of State.)

Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underlining to indicate new matter.

County  City  Town  Village  
(Select one:)

of Sparta

Local Law No. 4 of the year 20<sup>23</sup>

A local law extending Local Law No. 1-2021 a temporary land use moratorium prohibiting large scale  
(Insert Title)  
solar installations within the Town of Sparta for twelve (12) months

Be it enacted by the Sparta Town Board of the  
(Name of Legislative Body)

County  City  Town  Village  
(Select one:)

of Sparta as follows:

"See Attached"

(If additional space is needed, attach pages the same size as this sheet, and number each.)



**LOCAL LAW NO. 4 OF 2023**  
**“A LOCAL LAW EXTENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2021 A TEMPORARY LAND USE MORATORIUM PROHIBITING LARGE SCALE SOLAR INSTALLATIONS WITHIN THE TOWN OF SPARTA FOR TWELVE (12) MONTHS”**

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Sparta as follows:

**SECTION I. TITLE**

This Local Law Shall Be Known As “A Local Law Extending a Temporary Land Use Moratorium Prohibiting Large Scale Solar Installations within the Town of Sparta for twelve (12) months.”

**SECTION II. AUTHORITY**

The Town Board of the Town of Sparta, pursuant to the authority of Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, hereby enacts said article as follows.

**SECTION II. PURPOSE AND INTENT**

The purpose of this local law is to extend the temporary land use moratorium which prohibits large scale solar installations in the Town of Sparta for twelve (12) months, as the COVID-19 pandemic frustrated the process of adopting a Solar Law and deficiencies in the Town Zoning have been noted.

The purpose of this local law is to temporarily halt development of large scale solar installations, for a period of up to twelve (12) months, while the Town considers comprehensive zoning changes and the enactment of zoning measures to specifically address the matters of community concern.

The Town Board recognizes and acknowledges that the Town needs to continue to study and analyze many considerations that affect the preparation of local legislation to regulate large scale solar installations.

In the coming months, the Town continue working towards the development of regulations that will address, in a careful manner, the establishment, placement, construction, enlargement and erection of large scale solar installations on a comprehensive Town-wide basis and to adopt zoning regulations for provisions to specifically regulate same.

The Town Board is concerned with the potential impacts of future large-scale solar systems and believes it to be in the best interest of the Town of Sparta to establish a Local Law extend a temporary twelve (12) month moratorium on the installation of any large-scale solar systems.



### **SECTION III. DEFINITIONS**

**Large Scale Solar Installations:** Any installation of solar panels, equipment and/or buildings or structures undertaken for commercial purposes with an intention of generating power from the sun and converting such power into electricity for resale to or by a third party (which does not include any individual or business that directs such produced energy back into the public grid solely to offset their own energy consumption). Large Scale Solar Installations specifically DO NOT include any solar panel system or array undertaken by individual landowners, householders or farmers for their own personal use or the use of a business owned by them.

### **SECTION IV. SCOPE OF CONTROLS**

A. During the effective period of this Local Law:

1. The Town Board of the Town shall not grant any approvals that would have as the result the establishment, placement, construction, enlargement or erection of commercial solar energy conversion devices/farms within the Town.
2. The Town Planning Board shall not grant any preliminary or final approval to a subdivision plat, site plan, special use permit or other permit that would have as a result the establishment, placement, construction, enlargement or erection of a commercial solar energy conversion devices/farms within the Town.
3. The Town Zoning Board of Appeals shall not grant any variance or other permit for any use that would result in the establishment, placement, construction, enlargement or erection of a commercial solar energy conversion devices/farms within the Town.
4. The Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer of the Town shall not issue any permit that would result in the establishment, placement, construction, enlargement or erection of a commercial solar energy conversion devices/farms within the Town.

B. The Town Board of the Town reserves the right to direct the Town Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer to revoke or rescind any building permits or certificates of occupancy issued in violation of this Local Law.

### **SECTION V. NO CONSIDERATION OF NEW APPLICATIONS**

No applications for construction affected by this Local Law or for approvals for a site plan, subdivision, variance, special use permit or other permits shall be considered by any board officer or agency of the Town while the moratorium imposed by this Local Law is in effect.



**SECTION VI. TERM**

The moratorium imposed by this Local Law shall be in effect for a period of twelve (12) months from the effective date of this Local Law.

**SECTION VII. PENALTIES**

Any person, firm or corporation that shall establish, place, construct, enlarge or erect any commercial solar energy conversion devices/farms in violation of the provisions of this Local Law or shall otherwise violate any of the provisions of this Local Law shall be subject to:

- A. Such penalties as may otherwise be provided by applicable local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations of the Town for violations; and
- B. Injunctive relief in favor of the Town to cease any and all such actions which conflict with this Local Law and, if necessary, to remove any construction that may have taken place in violation of this Local Law.

**SECTION VIII. VALIDITY**

The invalidity of any provision of this Local Law shall not affect the validity of any other provision of this Local Law that can be given effect without such invalid provision.

**SECTION IX. HARDSHIP**

- A. Should any owner of property affected by this Local Law suffer an unnecessary hardship in the way of carrying out the strict letter of this Local Law, then the owner of said property may apply to the Town Board of the Town in writing for a variation from strict compliance with this Local Law upon submission of proof of such unnecessary hardship. For the purposes of this Local Law, unnecessary hardship shall not be the mere delay in being permitted to make an application or waiting for a decision on the application for a variance, special permit, site plan, subdivision, or other permit during the period of the moratorium imposed by this Local Law.
- B. Procedure.
  - 1. Upon submission of a written application to the Town Clerk by the property owner seeking a variation of this Local Law, the Town Board shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of said application, schedule a Public Hearing on said application upon five (5) days written notice in the official newspaper of the Town.
  - 2. At said Public Hearing, the property owner and any other parties wishing to present evidence with regard to the application shall have an opportunity to be heard, and the



Town Board shall, within fifteen (15) days of the close of said Public Hearing, render its decision either granting or denying the application for a variation from the strict requirements of this Local Law.

3. If the Town Board determines that a property owner will suffer an unnecessary hardship if this Local Law is strictly applied to a particular property, then the Town Board shall vary the application to this Local Law to the minimum extent necessary to provide the property owner relief from strict compliance with this Local Law.

**SECTION X. REPEAL**

All ordinances, local laws and parts thereof inconsistent with this local law are hereby repealed.

**SECTION XI. SEVERABILITY/VALIDITY**

In the event that any work phrase of part of this local law shall be declared unconstitutional, the same shall be severed and separated from the remainder of this local law and shall not impact the remainder of said local law which shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION XII. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State of New York as provided in section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.



(Complete the certification in the paragraph that applies to the filing of this local law and strike out that which is not applicable.)

**1. (Final adoption by local legislative body only.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. 4 of 2023 of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of Sparta was duly passed by the Sparta Town Board on June 13, 2023, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.  
*(Name of Legislative Body)*

**2. (Passage by local legislative body with approval, no disapproval or repassage after disapproval by the Elective Chief Executive Officer\*.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) *(Name of Legislative Body)* (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ and was deemed duly adopted *(Elective Chief Executive Officer\*)* on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

**3. (Final adoption by referendum.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) *(Name of Legislative Body)* (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_. *(Elective Chief Executive Officer\*)*

Such local law was submitted to the people by reason of a (mandatory)(permissive) referendum, and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the (general)(special)(annual) election held on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

**4. (Subject to permissive referendum and final adoption because no valid petition was filed requesting referendum.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) *(Name of Legislative Body)* (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_. Such local *(Elective Chief Executive Officer\*)* law was subject to permissive referendum and no valid petition requesting such referendum was filed as of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

\* Elective Chief Executive Officer means or includes the chief executive officer of a county elected on a county-wide basis or, if there be none, the chairperson of the county legislative body, the mayor of a city or village, or the supervisor of a town where such officer is vested with the power to approve or veto local laws or ordinances.



**5. (City local law concerning Charter revision proposed by petition.)**

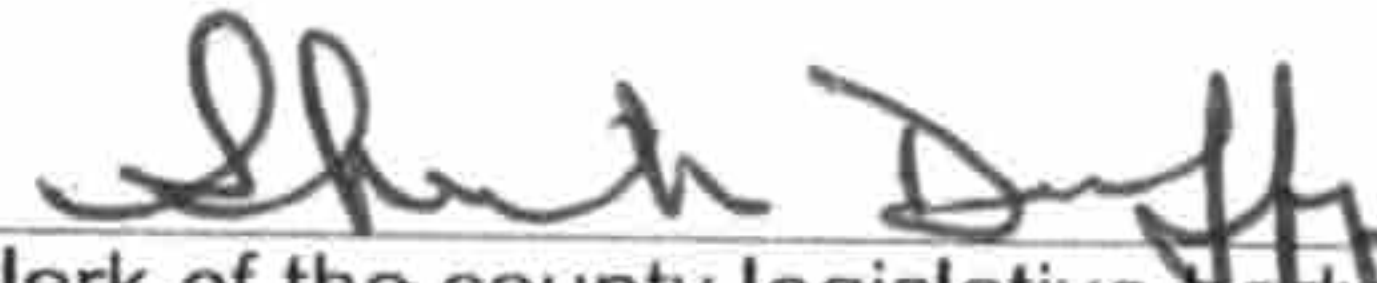
I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ having been submitted to referendum pursuant to the provisions of section (36)(37) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of such city voting thereon at the (special)(general) election held on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, became operative.

**6. (County local law concerning adoption of Charter.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the County of \_\_\_\_\_ State of New York, having been submitted to the electors at the General Election of November \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, pursuant to subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 33 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the cities of said county as a unit and a majority of the qualified electors of the towns of said county considered as a unit voting at said general election, became operative.

**(If any other authorized form of final adoption has been followed, please provide an appropriate certification.)**

I further certify that I have compared the preceding local law with the original on file in this office and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original local law, and was finally adopted in the manner indicated in paragraph \_\_\_\_\_ above.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the county legislative body, City, Town or Village Clerk or officer designated by local legislative body

Date: 7/11/23

(Seal)

