

TOWN OF CAROLINE LOCAL LAW # 2 of 2010

EXCAVATION AND CONSTRUCTION IN MUNICIPAL ROADWAYS AND HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY

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

SECTION 1: TITLE & APPLICATION; FINDINGS - This Local Law shall be known as "Local Law Number 2 of 2010". Local Law Number 2 of 2010 hereby repeals any prior Local Law or resolution that is inconsistent herewith. Local Law Number 2 of 2010 applies only within the Town of Caroline Tompkins County, New York. The Town of Caroline hereby finds and declares that the provision of safe travel and the maintenance of safe public highways and roadways are of paramount importance to the public. Further, highways are costly to build, repair and maintain, and the Town of Caroline expends substantial resources annually to maintain, repair, preserve and protect such public highways. Thus, based thereupon, and upon the authority granted to the Town of Caroline under and pursuant to Town Law § 64, Highway Law § 136, Articles 39, 40 and 41 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, and §§ 10(1)(a)(6) and 10(1)(a)(12) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, the Town of Caroline adopts this Local Law to preserve and protect highways and related rights-of-way, and to ensure safe travel for all persons travelling there upon.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS - The following terms used in this Local Law shall have the following meanings:

A. **APPURTENANT STRUCTURE** - "Appurtenant Structure" means any temporary or permanent structure or construct, other than a roadway or road surface, within the area of any Highway, including those structures, constructs, and devices located or installed over, upon, or under any such Highway, including, but not limited to, signs, traffic control devices, waterlines, utility lines, communications lines, culverts, ditches, drainage ways, manholes, fire hydrants, curbs, driveways, guardrails, bridges, bridge supports and railings, fencing, and often also including driveways.

B. **DEFAULT** - "Default" shall mean (1) any violation of the terms, requirements, or conditions of this Local Law; or (2) the violation of any terms or conditions of any Permit; or (3) performing any work, Construction, or Excavation not referenced in any application; or (4) performing any work, Construction, or Excavation upon any land, Highway, or Appurtenant Structure not specifically identified in the Application or the Permit issued by the Town of Caroline.

C. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER - "Code Enforcement Officer" shall mean the Code Enforcement Officer appointed by the Town Board.

D. CONSTRUCTION - "Construction" means the building, installation, repair, or replacement of any Appurtenant Structure.

E. CONTRACTOR - "Contractor" shall mean any person or entity, including any landowner or private citizen, that proposes to perform Excavation or Construction under, in or upon any Highway, or any Appurtenant Structure related to any Highway.

F. EXCAVATION - "Excavation" shall mean any work, process, or construction that proposes to or does alter the surface of any Highway, or which affects the soils or any Appurtenant Structure of or under any Highway, including, but not limited to, pavement cuts and culvert installations, and also including road surface work and paving.

G. FEE - "Fee" shall mean any charge or cost imposed or due under or as a result of this Local Law. Fees may be updated, changed, or amended from time-to-time by resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Caroline.

H. HIGHWAY - "Highway" shall mean each, every, and all public streets, public sidewalks, public roads, public alleys, and public highways within the Town of Caroline that are Town of Caroline highways by use, highways by dedication, and/or highways by implication, including the paved or finished surfaces thereof, all signage, all ditches, culverts, drains and drainage ways, all utility and similar structures and appurtenances, and all land, improved or otherwise, within the bounds of the highway rights-of-way.

I. HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT - "Highway Superintendent" shall mean the elected or appointed Highway Superintendent of the Town of Caroline and/or designees of each such person who are given specific written authorization to act for such Highway Superintendent under this Local Law.

J. PERMIT - "Permit" shall mean any permit required under or pursuant to this Local Law.

K. SECURITY - "Security" shall mean: (1) a cash deposit delivered to the sole custody of the Town of Caroline to secure and guarantee performance under any Permit and compliance with this Local Law, free of reservations, restrictions, conditions or claims; or (2) an unconditional letter of credit approved by the Town of Caroline or (3) a performance, completion, and indemnity bond approved by the Town of Caroline; or (4) a Certificate of Deposit irrevocably

assigned to the Town of Caroline in an approved amount; or (5) any other form of undertaking as approved by the Town of Caroline: or (6) any combination of the foregoing approved by the Town of Caroline.

SECTION 3: PROHIBITIONS - No firm, utility company or provider, transportation corporation, communications or cable company, or other person or entity shall conduct any Construction or make any Excavation, cut, or breaking in, or otherwise open any Highway or sidewalk for any purpose whatsoever, including, but not limited to, the making of any driveway connection or the installation or repair or replacement of any culvert or other Appurtenant Structure, without a Permit issued pursuant to the requirements of this Local Law. No Contractor may perform any Construction or Excavation in, upon, or under any Highway, nor construct, repair, install, or build any Appurtenant Structure, without a Permit. No Contractor or other person or entity may spread, place, or distribute any substance upon a Highway or within a highway right-of-way unless done pursuant to, and in compliance with, a Permit.

A. In the case of an emergency any person or entity already having or possessing rights to any Appurtenant Structure within any Highway may effect such emergency repairs as are reasonably necessary; but such person or entity must thereafter apply for a Permit upon the next business day.

B. This Local Law shall not apply to the installation of mailboxes and newspaper boxes.

C. This Local Law shall not apply to Excavation, Construction, or other work performed upon, under or within Highways and related rights-of-way by the Town of Caroline, including Excavation, Construction, or other work upon Appurtenant Structures.

SECTION 4: PERMIT REQUIRED - All Contractors are required to obtain a Permit from the Town of Caroline prior to performing any Construction or Excavation in, upon, or under any Highway, or before constructing, repairing, installing, or building any Appurtenant Structure. Each Permit issued by the Town of Caroline will be valid only for a stated period of time. Permits are not transferrable or assignable by any act or by operation of law. If the Permit expires, a renewal Permit may be issued by the Town of Caroline for an additional fee of \$ 10.00 upon such additional or other terms, Security, or restrictions as determined in the sole discretion of the Highway Superintendent.

A. When a common Construction or Excavation project involves more than one firm or Contractor, including public service companies and transportation corporations, those Contractors shall together designate in writing a lead Contractor who shall be responsible for obtaining a Permit, acting in compliance

there with, and for compliance with the terms and requirements of this Local Law. Despite the existence of a lead Contractor, all such other persons and entities shall be and be deemed Contractors under and pursuant to this Local Law.

SECTION 5: PERMIT PROCESS - Contractors must submit a completed application for a Town of Caroline Permit upon a form provided and approved by the Highway Superintendent to the Code Enforcement Officer. The Highway Superintendent may develop and utilize one or more types of forms for Permit applications as based upon any reasonable standard, such as, but not limited to, the type of work to be performed (e.g., "culvert permits" or "driveway or curb cut permits" or "excavation permits", etc.). All Permit applications shall contain the following information or materials:

A. Project drawings and specifications for any Excavation or Construction as required by the Highway Superintendent, including, where applicable surveys and/or plans sealed by a New York State licensed engineer or architect in compliance with, *inter alia*, the New York State Education Law.

B. An application Fee.

C. If the Contractor proposes to do work or perform any Excavation or Construction upon or under any land outside of the Highway, the written consent of the owners of each such parcel of land shall be provided, and such written consent must recite that such owner has reviewed the proposed Excavation or Construction drawings and specifications and consents to, or otherwise permits, such work.

D. Whenever required, a completed Environmental Assessment Form ("EAF") shall be submitted by the Contractor pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617 (together herein, "SEQRA"). No Permit may be issued until the SEQRA review process has been completed.

E. A Stormwater analysis of the impacts of any excavation or construction or installation project upon the Highway and its Appurtenances. Such analysis shall follow the requirements of Town of Caroline Local Law # 2 of 2007 "Stormwater Management and Erosion and Sediment Control Local Law, and/or shall comply with the terms of (i) the New York Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control manual, commonly known as the "Blue Book", and, as applicable, (ii) the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("SPDES") General Permit for Construction Activities GP-02-01 or GP-02-02 (each and all as now exist or as hereafter codified, updated, changed or amended). Any information and any Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan ("SWPPP") shall be

designed to contain any increases in stormwater and prevent any erosion of the Highway and any Appurtenances, as well as prevent stormwater pollution and sedimentation.

F. The required amount(s) and type(s) of Security.

G. Construction and Excavation start dates and completion dates.

H. Any other information the Highway Superintendent may require, including, but not limited to, traffic control plans and proof of a right to enter any private property.

SECTION 6: WINTER WORK - During the "winter work season," which is hereby defined as November 15 through April 1, annually, Permits will generally be issued only in the discretion of the Code Enforcement Officer and generally only for emergency work. In the event that a winter Permit is issued, the following temporary remediation and other requirements apply:

A. All Highway shoulders shall require additional materials and compaction as determined by the Highway Superintendent.

B. Temporary pavement and road surface restorations may be made by (i) the placement and compaction of a minimum of two layers of dust-bound crushed stone, each of a compacted thickness of four inches on the prepared sub grade, followed by a layer of bituminous concrete, winter mix, six inches in compacted thickness, on top, or (ii) as otherwise required by the Code Enforcement Officer.

C. No frozen material shall be placed in excavation areas.

D. Daily inspections may be required and, if so, paid for by the Contractor. Whenever required by the Code Enforcement Officer, the Contractor shall perform any needed repairs or maintenance within 24 hours of receipt of any notice requiring the same

E. All Temporary repairs shall be maintained by the Contractor until a permanent repair is made. The Contractor must monitor the site and perform repairs within 24 hours notice of the Code Enforcement Officer.

F. As early as spring weather permits, the excavation area shall be inspected at the expense of the Contractor and a permanent repair shall be made by the Contractor. Where required, in the reasonable discretion of the Code Enforcement Officer, the permanent repair may require re-construction of the road base or other re-construction requirements.

G. Notwithstanding anything which may appear to the contrary in the Permit or this Local Law, the Contractor assumes all responsibility for the safe maintenance of the subject work site(s) from November 15 through April 1, and further assumes all liability for damages resulting from, or in any way connected with, the subject work and work area during this period.

SECTION 7: REVIEW OF APPLICATION; FEES, ESCROW DEPOSITS, SECURITY AND INSURANCE – The Code Enforcement Officer shall review each completed and submitted application within 30 days. Any application may be rejected if:

- A. The details, specifications, or drawings are incomplete or lack specificity.
- B. The proposed project, work, Excavation, or Construction is or will be harmful or injurious to any Highway as determined by the Code Enforcement Officer.
- C. The application has incomplete or inadequate stormwater controls, if required, or an inadequate SWPPP as required by Town of Caroline Local Law #2 of 2007 “Stormwater Management and Erosion and Sediment Control Local Law.
- D. The proposed Contractor is unable to meet the Security requirements of the project and/or this Local Law.

The Code Enforcement Officer shall, for each application, determine and set an amount of Security and liability insurance that must be posted and/or provided by the Contractor prior to the issuance of any Permit. The Security shall be in such form and amount as determined by the Code Enforcement Officer. The insurance shall be procured, paid for, and provided by the Contractor, who shall maintain general all-risk liability, completed operations, and workers’ compensation insurance coverages, each in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00. Each such coverage or policy shall name the Town of Caroline as an additional insured and waive any subrogation rights as against the Town of Caroline. For any Construction or Excavation that will be performed in phases, that will require multiple inspections, or that will require the review of any engineer or other paid consultant (such as, but not exclusively, to review any SWPPP, surveys, engineering or design plans, etc., if and as required), the Code Enforcement Officer may require the establishment of a Fee, inspection, and review escrow account (“FIREA”) to be funded periodically by the Contractor in amounts deemed reasonable by the Code Enforcement Officer to ensure that adequate funds are available to pay for the costs of such Fees, inspections, and reviews. The Town Board of the Town of Caroline may establish, by Resolution, standardized FIREA schedules for permits and other required reviews, inspections, and reports created, performed, reviewed, or filed

under, in accord with, or in furtherance of this Local Law, which schedule shall (i) be limited to such amounts as are reasonably estimated as the administrative and other costs and expenses incurred by the Town of Caroline in connection with any matter arising under this Local Law, and (ii) be reviewed at least once every year by the Town Board of the Town of Caroline to assure that the fees remain reasonable in light of actual and generally incurred costs and expenses associated with Fee, inspection, and review requirements.

SECTION 8: PERMIT ISSUANCE - The Code Enforcement Officer, upon the receipt, review and approval of any application, shall issue a Permit for such work upon such terms as determined in the reasonable discretion of such Code Enforcement Officer. The Code Enforcement Officer may require that special conditions be met as deemed necessary, in his or her discretion, in conjunction with the work, Excavation and/or Construction to be performed on, in, or under any Highway or Appurtenant Structure. The Code Enforcement Officer may issue a revised or amended Permit at any time to correct any error or omission, to require or reference a change in the scope of work or the project specifications, to address the encountering of unforeseen surface or subsurface conditions, including weather, or for any other reason.

SECTION 9: ENFORCEMENT OFFICER - The Code Enforcement Officer is hereby authorized, directed, and designated to enforce the provisions of this Local Law.

SECTION 10: PERFORMANCE - The Contractor may only perform work, Construction or Excavation as authorized by the express terms of the Permit. In performing such work, Construction or Excavation, the Contractor shall:

- A. Preserve and protect all roadway surfaces, the Highway, and each Appurtenant Structure from needless destruction or alteration.
- B. Commence the work, Excavation, and/or Construction, within 20 days of the date the Permit is issued, and there after perform the work, Excavation, and/or Construction, and all backfilling, tamping, repair, and restoration work, as one continuous operation to complete the same by the earliest practical date. As soon as the Contractor becomes aware that Construction, and/or Excavation may not be completed by the completion date stated in or required by any Permit, the Contractor must notify the Code Enforcement Officer to apply for a new permit. No work shall continue past the permit completion date.
- C. Restore and repair any affected Highway and Appurtenant Structure to the current requirements.
- D. Maintain at all times safe crossings, barricades, coverings, warning signs, lighting, and any and all other safety devices, structures, or procedures as may

be required by law or regulation, the New York State Department of Transportation, OSHA, or in the exercise of diligent care.

E. Maintain at all times the Security and insurance coverage(s) required, and to pay, whenever requested, any FIREA deposits.

F. Perform the work, Construction and/or Excavation in such a manner and at such times as to not interfere with, or to minimize, any obstructions to the safe flow of traffic.

G. Prevent stormwater pollution arising from any site or other Excavation or Construction, including through the proper installation and maintenance of short-term and permanent stormwater management practices and, as and if applicable, compliance with any SWPPP and/or any SPDES Permit conditions or requirements.

H. Perform all backfilling and tamping with materials specified by the Highway Superintendent, which materials shall be free from clay, loam or silt, and which materials shall be moistened and mechanically tamped until thoroughly compacted.

I. For all Construction or Excavation work that will impair the provision of any public utility, water supplies, or effect any closure or partial closure of any Highway, it shall be the duty of every Contractor to give at least 72 hours' advance written notice of the work and the effect thereof to all persons, entities, or municipalities owning property or any Appurtenant Structures within 500' of the vicinity of the proposed work. Proof of due notice shall be filed with the Highway Superintendent at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the proposed work.

J. The Contractor shall provide prior notice to each and all utility companies, public service companies, and municipalities of the proposed work, Excavation, or Construction, and to have such company or municipality mark or otherwise identify the location or course of any underground or other utilities. No work, Excavation, or Construction shall commence until all utilities and underground appurtenances are so marked and the rules and regulations of the New York State Public Service Commission and the "Dig Safely New York" program have been fully complied with.

K. All Appurtenant Structures shall be built, repaired and installed in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and rules, including, but not limited to the New York State Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

L. The Contractor shall preserve, protect, and maintain (including maintenance of the distribution of) all utilities encountered or affected by or during performance of any work, Excavation or Construction.

SECTION 11: REVOCATION OF PERMIT; DEFAULTS - A Permit may be revoked by the Code Enforcement Officer after notice to the Contractor (or other permittee) for any violation of any condition of the Permit, for the violation or of any provision of, or non-compliance with, this Local Law, for the violation of any provision of any other applicable ordinance or law relating to the work, or for the existence of any condition or the doing of any act constituting or creating a nuisance or endangering the lives or properties of others. The following terms and conditions shall apply to the revocation of any Permit and/or the occurrence of any Default:

A. A Contractor may be granted one period of three days from the date of the notice to correct the violation and to proceed with the diligent prosecution of the work authorized by the Permit before said Permit is revoked. Written notice of any such violation or condition shall be served upon the Contractor or his agent engaged in the work. The notice shall contain a brief statement of the grounds relied upon for revoking the Permit.

B. Notice may be given either by personal delivery thereof or by registered United States mail addressed to the person notified.

C. When a Permit has been revoked and the work authorized by the Permit has not been completed, the Highway Superintendent shall cause such work as may be necessary to be performed to restore the Highway to as good a condition as before the Construction or Excavation work was undertaken. Such performance and work may be undertaken by the Highway Superintendent's employees and staff, or by any independent contractor hired by the Town of Caroline to perform such work. All expenses and costs incurred to restore the Highway shall be recovered from any posted Security, or if the same is inadequate to cover the costs and expenses thereof, then from the Contractor.

D. The failure of any Contractor to cure any Default or cure any conditions stated within the above-referenced notice within such three days shall be a Default that shall entitle the Town of Caroline to collect and utilize any Security or FIREA deposit for any purpose related to the Contractor's Permit, including, but not limited to, the repair of any damage, the completion of the project, or the hiring of any third party to complete the project. No default, nor the completion of the project by any third party or the Town of Caroline, shall relieve the Contractor of any obligation or expense imposed under this Local Law, or as may otherwise be imposed by any other law or regulation.

Notwithstanding the foregoing terms, conditions and requirements, whenever the Highway Superintendent believes that there is any emergency, the Highway Superintendent may issue a "stop work" order. Immediately upon receipt of the same each Contractor shall cease work, secure the worksite, and immediately adhere to and complete all safety inspections and procedures as may be required by law, regulation, or the terms of the stop work order. Work may only re-commence upon the written revocation of the stop work order by the Highway Superintendent.

SECTION 12: INSPECTIONS - Until the Construction or Excavation is completed, the Town of Caroline may furnish and charge for an inspection for each day that such work is in progress. Inspections shall be made for the sole purpose of verifying compliance with the Permit or for verification that the materials and processes used will result in a finished job that is consistent with Town of Caroline specifications. No inspection is made for the purposes of reviewing, recommending, or verifying safety practices. Safety compliance and safety inspections are and shall be and remain the sole responsibility of the Contractor. The Fee for each such inspection shall be adopted by resolution of the Caroline Town Board and shall be promptly paid upon request.

SECTION 13: RESTORATION - After performance and/or completion of any work, Construction or Excavation, the Highway and each Appurtenant Structure shall be repaired and restored in a permanent manner satisfactory to the Highway Superintendent and/or in accord with Permit requirements. To the extent possible, any repair or restoration must match the original Highway or Appurtenant Structure in type, color, structure, materials, grade, and texture, in compliance with then current applicable specifications there for. Upon completion of the work and after restoration pursuant to the terms of this Local Law, any remaining amount of any deposit or Security shall be returned or released, as applicable.

SECTION 14: WAIVERS - Where the Code Enforcement Officer finds that, due to the special circumstances of a particular case a waiver of certain requirements is justified, a waiver of any one or more requirements of this Local Law may be granted. In all cases, no waiver shall be granted unless the Code Enforcement Officer finds and records in writing that:

- A. Granting the waiver would be keeping with the intent and spirit of this Local Law and is in the best interests of the community.
- B. There is no adverse effect upon the Highway or any Appurtenant Structure.
- C. There is no adverse impact upon the ability to safely travel upon such Highway.

- D. There are special circumstances involved in the particular case.
- E. Denying the waiver would result in undue hardship, provided that such hardship has not been self-imposed.
- F. The waiver so requested or granted represents the minimum necessary degree of variation from the requirements of this Local Law or the Permit.

SECTION 15: OFFENSES; PENALTIES; ENFORCEMENT - Any Contractor or other person or entity that violates any of the provisions of this Local Law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a criminal fine between \$500.00 and \$2,000.00, or a sentence of imprisonment not to exceed 15 days, or both. Each week of continued violation shall be and be deemed a separate offense. For the purposes of conferring jurisdiction upon courts and judicial officers such violation shall be deemed an unclassified misdemeanor and all provisions of law relating generally to misdemeanors shall apply. In lieu of the foregoing and at the election of the Town of Caroline, any violation of this Local Law shall subject any Contractor, person, or other entity or party to a civil penalty of not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$500.00 for any first violation, and to a civil penalty of not less than \$250.00 and not more than \$1,000.00 for any subsequent violations, with such penalties to be recovered in a civil action in the name of the Town of Caroline. The application of any sentence or penalty shall not preclude the enforced removal or prevention of any prohibited conditions or violations of the Permit or this Local Law. Nothing in this Local Law shall prohibit the Town of Caroline from seeking any other relief as may be provided for or allowed by law or in equity, or be deemed to effect an election of remedies by the Town of Caroline. Any fine or penalty provided for in this Local Law is intended to be in addition to, and not in lieu of, any rights or remedies the Town of Caroline may have in such circumstances.

SECTION 16: APPEALS - Any aggrieved person or entity may appeal any action or determination of the Code Enforcement Officer to the Town of Caroline by filing a written statement setting forth the reasons for such appeal. Upon receipt of such appeal, the Caroline Town Board shall hold a hearing within 30 days and, after a review of all evidence, shall affirm, modify, or annul the appealed from action or determination.

SECTION 17: ARTICLE 78 - The actions and determinations of the Town of Caroline, and its elected officials, employees, and agents shall each be deemed "final determinations" for purposes of Article 78 of the New York Civil Practice Laws and Rules ("CPLR"). Notwithstanding this, standing under said Article 78 of the CPLR shall only be appropriate after the exhaustion of any administrative appeals as provided for in this Local Law.

SECTION 18: LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY - The Contractor assumes sole responsibility for the worksite and all related or adjacent areas and lands and agrees to

assume all responsibility for any injury or damage that may or does occur as a result of any Excavation or Construction and any related work, including, but not limited to, traffic control, grubbing, paving, clean up, remediation, or restoration work. The Contractor, to the fullest extent permitted by law, shall indemnify and hold the Town of Caroline harmless from and against any, each, and all losses, actions, causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, extents, executions, claims, and demands whatsoever, in law, admiralty or equity (all together hereafter, "Claims"), including, but not limited to, reimbursement to the Town of Caroline any amount expended for any and all experts', consultants', attorneys' and engineering fees and expenses arising from or in relation to any Claim. The Town of Caroline shall not be liable or responsible for any injury to persons or damage to property due to any acts or failures to act under or pursuant to any Permit or this Local Law unless it is proven to a reasonable degree of certainty that such injury or damage was solely caused by a willful or intentional act of the Town of Caroline.

SECTION 19: CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER LAWS - The provisions of this Local Law shall not diminish or impair the right of any other governmental agency or body to require that any act be taken or avoided. No variance, permit, grandfather rights, law, code, resolution, procedure, or rule pertaining to zoning or land use shall supersede the requirements of this Local Law. This Local Law is intended to supplement and augment the requirements of zoning and land use regulations and rules, as well as the rules of other governmental bodies and agencies, relating to the preservation and protection of highways and public rights-of-way, and to ensure their continued safe operating condition.

SECTION 20: SEVERABILITY; INTERPRETATION - If the provisions of any article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Local Law shall be adjudged invalid by a court or other tribunal of competent jurisdiction, such order or judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this Local Law. Any such invalidity shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or article thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall have been rendered. Section and other headings are for reference and convenience only and shall not be deemed or construed to limit or define the requirements of clauses set forth there under.

SECTION 21: EFFECTIVE DATE - This Local Law shall be and become effective immediately upon filing with the New York Secretary of State.