Local Law Filing

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

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SECTION 1. Name of Local Law								
This Local Law shall be known as "Regulating Pawnbrokers, Secondhand Dealers, Junk Dealers, Scrap Processors, Jewelry, Precious Metals and Coin Exchange Dealers."								
SECTION 2. Legislative Intent								
A. The Niagara County Legislature finds and determines that the creation of a uniform countywide licensing and reporting program for tangible personal property acquired by pawnbrokers, secondhand dealers, junk dealers, scrap processors, jewelry, precious metals and coin exchange dealers will curtail the distribution and facilitate the recovery of stolen property throughout Niagara County.								
SECTION 3. Purpose								
The purpose of this local law is to establish a uniform system for tracking the sale and/or transactions of precious metal exchanges, pawnshops, junk and scrap processors, and secondhand merchants to assist the law enforcement community in tracking and recovering stolen property. This purpose shall be fulfilled by the uniform licensing and reporting system hereby established.								
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(If additional space is needed, attach pages the same size as this sheet, and number each.)

This local law is necessary for the protection of the citizens of Niagara County and is reasonable and appropriate for such precious metal exchange establishments, pawnshops and secondhand dealers.

SECTION 4. Definitions

As used in this local law, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

"Antiques" - Such items or collectibles recognized as such by established dealer associations within the industry.

"Antique Dealer" - Person engages exclusively in the business of purchasing and selling antique, collectible, vintage, or estate articles whose value is determined by age, condition, and rarity.

"Bullion" – Any gold, silver, platinum, or other precious metal in the form of bars, ingots, or coins, where the value of the item is primarily derived from underlying value of the composite metals.

"Dealer" - Any party required to be licensed under this law, including, but not limited to "pawn brokers," "secondhand dealers," "junk dealers," "scrap processors," "jewelry and coin exchange dealers" and/or "precious metal exchanges" located within Niagara County.

"Identification" – A valid New York State driver's license, passport, or equivalent photo identification that contains the person's name, physical description, and current address.

"Jewelry" – Articles composed (in whole or in part) of gold, silver, or other precious metals, gems or gemstones which, as constructed, are designed to be worn for personal adornment.

"Jewelry and Coin Exchange Dealer" – Persons or business establishments engaged in the business of sale, purchase, or exchange of precious metals and/or jewelry for other objects of precious metal, jewelry, United States currency, bank drafts, other negotiable instruments as defined in the Uniform Commercial Code or any other object or thing of value.

"Junk Dealer" – Persons or business establishments engaged in the business of purchasing and reselling valuable metal either at a permanently established place of business or in connection with a business of an itinerant nature, including junk shops, junk yards, junk stores, auto wreckers, salvage yards, collectors of or dealers in junk and junk cars or trucks.

"Law Enforcement Agency" – A representative of any local, state or federal law enforcement agency operating within Niagara County with jurisdiction over the jewelry and coin exchange dealer, secondhand dealer, and/or pawnbroker, acting in his/her official capacity in the investigation of criminal activity.

"Numismatic Coins" - coins with a market value greater than that of their face value.

a) This sections is not intended to include bullion coins whose value is determined by the market value of their underlying precious metal content plus a mint mark-up.

"Operator" - Person(s) responsible for the day-to-day operations of the business as indicated under this law.

"Pawnbroker" - Any person or business establishment who holds goods as collateral on short-term, high-interest loans or a person who qualifies as a "collateral loan broker" pursuant to section 52 of the New York General Business Law.

"Precious Metals" – Includes, but is not limited to, gold, silver, platinum, palladium, copper, or any combination thereof purchased and sold by weight and any secondhand manufactured article composed wholly or in part of gold, silver, platinum, or palladium.

"Precious Metals Exchange" – Person or corporation engaged in the business of purchase or exchange of precious metals for other objects of precious metal, U.S. currency, bank drafts, and other negotiable instruments as defined in the Uniform Commercial Code or any other object or thing of value.

"Scrap Processor" – Persons or business establishments operating and maintaining a scrap metal processing facility or engaged in the purchase, processing and shipment of ferrous and/or nonferrous scrap, the end product of which is the production of raw material for re-melting purposes for steel mills, foundries, smelters, refiners, and similar users.

"Secondhand Article" – Any article or object, with the exception of clothing and books, that has previously been bought or sold at retail and/or which has been previously used and/or is not in a new condition. This shall include any "gift card" or other electronic payment device that is usable at a single merchant or an affiliated group of merchants that share the same name, mark, or logo, is issued in a specific amount, and may or may not be increased in value or reloaded, or as otherwise defined in Article 26 section 396(I), or Article 13, section 1315, of the New York State General Business Law. This also includes, but is not limited to, electronics, gaming devices and video games.

"Secondhand Dealer" – Any person or business establishment who deals in the purchase, sale, exchange, or pledge as security for a sum of money any secondhand article. This shall not include providers of commercial mobile services as defined in 47 U.S.C. 332(d), and such providers' authorized agents and retailers that have contractual relationships with the provider to sell the provider's authorized products and services.

SECTION 5. Prohibited Acts

- A. It shall be unlawful for a dealer, or his or her designee, to purchase any articles, jewelry or precious metals from any person whom such dealer knows to be or has reason to believe to be under the age of 18 years.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any dealer, or his or her designee, to sell, dispose of, destroy, alter or remove from such dealer's premises any articles, jewelry or precious metals until the expiration 14 calendar days after the acquisition by such dealer of any such articles, jewelry or precious metals, unless otherwise exempted herein.
- C. When requested to do so by the appropriate local law enforcement agency in connection with a law enforcement investigation, it shall be unlawful for any dealer to sell, dispose of, destroy, alter or remove from such dealer's premises any articles, jewelry or precious metals until the expiration 30 calendar days from the date of the request. Upon the written request of the law enforcement agency, the property shall be held up for up to two additional thirty-day periods.
- D. No dealer shall employ any person who has been convicted, within three years, of any felony related to the operation of business or who has had dealer's license revoked or denied within the past year.
- E. No secondhand dealer shall permit his or her place of business to remain open for the transaction of business any time except between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

SECTION 6. Licensing

- A. Every pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, junk dealer, scrap processor, jewelry and coin exchanged dealer, or precious metal exchange operating within Niagara County is required to be licensed according to this local law.
- B. Every permanent, physical location in which a pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, junk dealer, scrap processor, jewelry and coin exchanged dealer, or precious metal exchange is operating in within Niagara County is required to be separately licensed.
- C. The Niagara County Sheriff shall be the licensing authority authorized to issue dealer licenses under this law.
- D. Any local police agency that has jurisdiction of the geographical area wherein the dealer is located may provide input to the Niagara County Sheriff on the issuance of a license to any vendor.
 - E. Licenses shall be valid for one year from date of issuance.

- F. The annual license fee shall be \$250 per license, per location. There shall be a fee of \$10 for replacement of a lost license.
- G. An application for a pawnbroker's, secondhand dealer's, junk dealer's, scrap processor's, jewelry, precious metals or coin exchange dealer's license (hereinafter "dealers license") shall be made by the owner on forms provided by and filed with the Niagara County Sheriff. The application shall include the following requirements:
- 1. Employee names, date of birth, and dates of employment, kept and made available for inspection by the Sheriff or his/her representatives for the duration of the license;
 - 2. Where the owner is not directly involved with the day-to-day operation of said business;
 - a) The operator must also be included on the application; or
- b) If a partnership, corporation or other business entity is involved, the application must designate an individual as operator who is involved in the day-to-day operation of the business. In this situation, the secondhand dealer's license shall be issued to the operator; the names, addresses and phone numbers of the partners, officers or principal shall also be listed on the application. All addresses of persons involved shall be home addresses listing street and number.
 - 3. The legal address of the premises where such business is to be carried out; and
- 4. Whether the applicant or any officer and operator has previously been involved in the purchase or sale of secondhand articles and, if so, the name of the business, its location and the dates of involvement.
- 5. Any and all e-commerce websites, including Internet storefronts, third-party sales outlets, as well as any and all written or electronic classified advertisements. The application shall further include any seller names or otherwise identifying names used within those e-commerce sites;
 - 6. The application shall be signed and sworn to before a notary public or other official authorized to administer oaths in the County;
- H. Before the issuance of a dealer's license, the Sheriff or his or her representative, and/or any local police agency which has jurisdiction of the geographical area wherein the dealer is located or his or her representative, shall have the right to enter upon such premises during normal business hours for the purpose of conducting inspections, related to the security systems and layout of the premises. After a dealer's license has been issued, further inspections of the premises, to ensure compliance with the laws, ordinances and rules and regulations relating to secondhand business, may be made in areas open to the public or other areas with consent.
- I. Any change in the facts or information required on said application that occurs after the application has been filed shall be reported by the licensee, in writing, to the Niagara County Sheriff within 10 days of the change.
- J. All applications for dealer's licenses shall be issued or denied within 30 days after a fully completed application has been received by the Niagara County Sheriff's Office. The applicant shall be notified, in writing, of any delay which is due to incomplete application, investigative delays, or other reasonable cause.
- K. Except as provided in Article 23-A of the New York State Correction Law, the Sheriff reserves the right to deny dealer's license to any person convicted of any crime related to the operation of the business.
- L. No person who stands convicted of a felony charge involving burglary, theft, or robbery may be eligible for a license pursuant to this law (other than those defined by the Vehicle and Traffic Law).
- M. No dealer's license shall be issued for a period of one year to an applicant that has been found guilty of operating a business without a secondhand dealer's license.

- N. Dealer's licenses shall not be transferred. In the event of any change involving the owner or operator of the business or the business location, a new dealer's license shall be required. A dealer's license shall not be transferred to any person who holds power of attorney.
 - O. The Niagara County Sheriff may deny or revoke any license granted herein in the following situations:
 - 1. Where the dealer has made a false statement in connection with its application; or
- 2. Where the dealer revokes the consent to examine such records and items or refuses to allow inspection of its premises.
 - 3. Where it is proven that the dealer or his or her designee has knowingly received stolen property.
 - 4. Where the home rule policing agency can show cause that the dealer is in violation of this law.
- P. If an application for a license is denied, or an existing license is revoked, the applicant or holder of the revoked license shall, within 10 business days of notice of denial or revocation, request reconsideration by the Niagara County Sheriff's Office by providing that office with any additional, relevant information. The Niagara County Sheriff's Office shall, within 10 business days of receipt of the reconsideration of materials, issue a final notice of denial or revocation setting forth the grounds upon which the license was either denied or revoked. Such final notice shall be transmitted by certified or registered mail.

SECTION 7. Licensing Explanations

- A. The following entities are exempt from the licensing requirements of this chapter:
- 1. Any secondhand dealer that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) or section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code; or
- 2. Garage sales, basement sales, porch sales, yard sales, and other such events at which a person desires to sell or trade his or her personal used items, household goods, furniture or equipment upon his or her premises, said premises not being a regular place of business for purchase or sale of secondhand items, shall be exempted from the license requirement of this chapter. No more than three such sales shall be conducted by the same person or persons upon the same premises within one calendar year, and each such sale shall not exceed three consecutive days.
 - Any dealer in secondhand or used motor vehicles.
- 4. The sale of antiques by an antique dealer, or his/her employee associates, provided the antique dealer:
 - a) Has an established antique shop advertised and promoted as such; or
 - b) Exhibits at least twice a year at established advertised and/or promoted antique shows; or
- c) Is a private dealer working from home and/or a nonretail location and has applied for and has been granted a New York State resale number for collection and submission of sales tax.
- 5. Any stores selling secondhand clothing, or sporting goods equipment where 50% or more of its gross revenues are related to items of clothing. Any clothing store claiming this exemption must provide written proof of its applicability by a certified public accountant within 20 days upon request of any law enforcement agency.

SECTION 8. General Operations

- A. Dealers shall comply with all provisions of federal, state and local laws and ordinances relating to the conduct business and occupation, use and maintenance of the premises and shall ensure that all of their employees and agents do so also. Where the dealer is also a pawn broker, the dealer shall comply with Article 5 of the New York State General Business Law entitled "Collateral Loan Brokers Law". Where the dealer is also a junk dealer, the dealer shall comply with Article 6 of the New York State General Business Law entitled "Junk Dealers Law".
- B. All dealers covered under this local law shall cause the dealer's license and business permit to be posted in a conspicuous place immediately visible upon entering the business establishment.
- C. If the dealer or an employee of any establishment covered by this chapter has reason to believe from the circumstances presented that an item has been stolen or acquired by dishonest means, it shall be his or her duty to immediately report same to the Sheriff or his or her representatives, or any local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction.
- D. Any law enforcement agency that confiscates property from a business covered under this chapter, as evidence or for safekeeping in an investigation or to return to an owner, shall issue a receipt to the business. The receipt shall contain a crime report number which references the investigation.
- E. Any dealer covered under this chapter shall release to a law enforcement agency, with valid jurisdiction, any item in the dealer's possession when:
 - 1. The item is established to be stolen; and
- 2. The owner of the item or victim of a theft has positively identified the item and provided an affidavit of ownership and had made a report of the theft to a law enforcement agency; and
- 3. The stolen property report describes the item by one or more of the following: date, initials, an insurance record, a photograph, a sales receipt, a serial number, specific damage, or a statement of facts that show the item is one of a kind or has a unique engraving; and
 - 4. The dealer is given a receipt from the law enforcement agency for the item released.
- F. Any dealer covered under this chapter, who is required to relinquish an item pursuant to this provision, is not entitled to demand or condition the release upon a reimbursement from the law enforcement agency, the owner of the item, or the victim of the theft. A dealer who is himself or herself a victim of a crime may seek restitution or reparation in accordance with the New York State Penal Law.
- G. Any party either implicitly or explicitly exempted from licensing pursuant to this law shall not be subject to any other provision herein.

SECTION 9. Identification Required

- A. It shall be the duty of the dealer to verify the identity of every person from whom a purchase is made through acceptable photographic identification (as detailed below) and to make and to keep a written record of the nature of the evidence submitted by such person to prove identity. The signature of the dealer shall be included in the recording of each transaction.
- B. Only the following shall be deemed acceptable evidence of identity: any official document (except a social security account number card) issued by the United States government, any state, county, municipality or subdivision thereof, any public agency or department thereof, or any public or private employer, which requires and bears the name, date of birth, signature, and picture of the person to whom issued.

- C. It shall be the duty of every dealer to require that every person from whom any article, jewelry or precious metal is purchased sign his/her name in the presence of the dealer, and to compare the signature on the identifying document, if any, and retain on said premises the person's signature together with the number and description of the identifying document, if any.
- D. If the individual is acting as an agent for a principal, proof of the principal's true name, date of birth and residence address must be provided.
- E. It shall further be the duty of every dealer, to take, and maintain, a copy or digital photo of the identification required by Section 9(B) of this law.
- F. It shall further be the duty of every dealer to take, and maintain, a digital photograph of each article, jewelry or precious metal purchased. The photograph must include the serial number and model number or product key of the item(s) containing those features. The photo must be high definition of at least 10 megapixel and the item must be clearly identifiable in the photo.

SECTION 10. Electronic Records

- A. Every dealer covered by this chapter shall upload to the electronic records of all reportable transactions to the LeadsOnline reporting service at www.leadsonline.com, or any other electronic reporting system as determined by the Niagara County Sheriff. Each transaction record shall contain all information required by this chapter and shall be uploaded via internet connection to this electronic reporting service according to the following procedures:
- 1. Using point of sale software, all dealers covered by this chapter shall review the compatibility of their software with the Leads Online electronic reporting service, and dealers with compliant point of sale software shall electronically upload all required information from their point of sale software to the specified electronic reporting service via internet connection using the upload process or reporting service; or
- 2. All dealers covered by this chapter and using point of sale software noncompliant with the Leads Online reporting service or not using point of sale software shall manually enter all reportable transactions into the electronic reporting service via internet connection.
- 3. Every dealer is required to provide to the electronic reporting service, at a minimum, the following information for each transaction:
 - a) Type of transaction: (pawn, trade, buy, scrap, etc.).

b) Transaction date & time.

c) Cashier name of identification number.

d) Customer identification type, number and state of issuance.

e) Digital photo of customer identification.

f) Customer first and last name, date of birth, and complete address.

g) Item price, detailed description including identifying marks, color, quantity, make, model, year and serial or vehicle identification number.

h) In the case of jewelry or precious metals:

i) Weight of precious metal in karats (10K, 14K, etc.).

ii) Number and type of precious stones on item.

- iii) Unique marks or inscriptions, specifically any engravings.
- iv) Any visible alterations or modifications to item.

i) Item weight (scrap only).

j) License plate number (scrap only).

- k) Digital photos clearly identifying the article and any distinguishing marks.
- 4. Every dealer must complete all required fields with accuracy. Any misspellings or omissions will constitute an incomplete submission and a violation of the provisions of this chapter.

- 5. In the event that any dealer covered by this chapter is unable to successfully upload transaction records via the electronic reporting service within the required 48 hours, the dealer shall, within 24 hours of the unsuccessful upload, notify the Niagara County Sheriff's Office of the reason for the submission failure and provide an estimated time of compliance. Under these circumstances, the dealer shall provide the Niagara County Sheriff's Office a daily electronic data table or spreadsheet of all transactions that would otherwise have been submitted via the electronic reporting service. This data shall either be hand delivered or e-mailed to the Niagara County Sheriff's Office no later than one business day after the transaction date.
- B. Every dealer shall furnish to any law enforcement agency, as defined in Section 4, all information requested by said agency relative to all records required to be kept under this chapter no later than three (3) days after receipt of any item covered by this local law.
- C. If any items composed wholly or in part of articles, jewelry or precious metals shall be advertised in any newspaper printed in the County of Niagara as having been lost or stolen, and if any items matching such advertised description or any part thereof shall be in or come into possession of any dealer upon receiving actual written or oral notice of the similarity of description of such articles, said dealer shall immediately give information relating thereto to the appropriate local law enforcement agency. No disposition of such items shall be affected until authorization to do so is given to such dealer by the appropriate local law enforcement agency.

Section 11. Record Maintenance & Holding Period Exemptions

- A. The following transactions are exempt from the record keeping and holding period requirements under this law:
 - 1. Any transaction by a party not required to be licensed pursuant to this law.
 - 2. Any sale conducted pursuant to statue or by order of any court.
 - The sale or purchase of any item(s) for less than \$15.
- 4. This chapter shall not apply to the return of secondhand items for credit, exchange or refund to the person from whom said items were originally obtained, provided that the items were not secondhand items when originally obtained.
- 5. The sale of secondhand articles at antique shows or trade shows, where such shows are advertised and/or promoted as such.
 - 6. Dealer to dealer or dealer to government transaction.
 - 7. Transactions primarily involving the exchange of bullion:
 - a) The value of the bullion must exceed 90% of the dollar value of the entire transaction to qualify for this exemption.
 - 8. Numismatic coin transactions.

SECTION 12. Release of Stolen Property

- A. Any dealer covered under this chapter shall release to a law enforcement agency, with valid jurisdiction, any item in the dealer's possession when:
- 1. The item is established to be stolen; and

- 2. The owner of the item or victim of a theft has positively identified the item and provided an affidavit of ownership and had made a report of the theft to a law enforcement agency; and
- 3. The stolen property report describes the item by one or more of the following: date, initials, an insurance record, a photograph, a sales receipt, a serial number, specific damage, or a statement of facts that show the item is one of a kind or has a unique engraving; and
 - 4. The dealer is given a receipt from the law enforcement agency for the item released.
- B. When the law enforcement agency no longer needs an item for evidence, it shall be returned to the rightful owner.

SECTION 13. Penalties for offenses; Enforcement

- A. Any violation of the provisions of this chapter shall constitute an offense and shall be punished as follows:
- 1. Any person violating the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a violation, and shall be awarded a fine not to exceed \$200 for the first offense, \$1,000 for the second offense, and \$3,000 for each subsequent offense. Each such violation shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.
- a) A violation, for the purposes of this section of the local law, shall be enforced once per transaction, regardless of the number of violations occurring in said transaction.
- b) A transaction shall consist of any single bargained for exchange committed between the same two parties within any 24 hour period.
 - 2. This chapter shall be enforced by any local law enforcement agency having appropriate jurisdiction.
 - B. No provision of this law is intended to alter or interfere with any party's right against self-incrimination.
 - C. All penalties will inure to the license holder and shall be payable by said licensee.
- D. Five (5) violations in any consecutive twelve (12) month period shall cause a revocation of the dealer's license.
- E. In the event a dealer is inappropriately operating as a secondhand dealer without a valid license, said dealer, after appropriate notice from the Sheriff, shall be fined in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 and shall be charged with operating a secondhand dealership without a license.
- 1. Appropriate notice shall be in writing and the secondhand dealer shall be afforded thirty (30) days from the receipt of notice within which to come into compliance with this local law.
- 2. Three (3) violations in any consecutive twelve (12) month span of operating a secondhand dealership without a license shall result in a misdemeanor charge against the operator of the secondhand dealership for operating a secondhand dealership without a license and shall be punishable by a fine of \$1,000 or not more than five (5) days in jail.

SECTION 14. Applicability

For the purposes of this law, any license granted under any town, village, or city ordinance of the same matter, which is already in effect prior to the enactment of this law, shall be considered a valid dealer's license.

SECTION 15. Due Process

Nothing in this law shall infringe upon the due process rights of the parties involved. After following proper procedure as laid out above any unresolved issues may be appealed to any court of competent jurisdiction.

SECTION 16. Severability

If any clauses, sentence, paragraph, section or article of this chapter shall adjudge by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such determination shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder

thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or article thereof directly involved in the proceeding in which such adjudication shall have been rendered.

SECTION 17. Effective Date

This Local Law shall become effective immediately upon the filing with the Secretary of State pursuant to

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

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1. (Final adoption by local legislative body only.) I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, des	ignated as local law No	5	of 20 <u>18</u> of
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^{*} 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 in the local law annexed hereto, designated at the City of having been submitted the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmathereon at the (special)(general) election held on	to referendum pursuant to the provisions of section (36)(37) of ative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of such city voting
6. (County local law concerning adoption of Charter.) I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated a the County of	ring been submitted to the electors at the General Election of and 7 of section 33 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having ors of the cities of said county as a unit and a majority of the
(If any other authorized form of final adoption has been fol I further certify that I have compared the preceding local law wi correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original local paragraph, 1 above.	th the original on file in this office and that the same is a cal law, and was finally adopted in the manner indicated in Many Tanakaulus Clerk of the county legislative body, City, Town or Village Clerk or officer designated by local legislative body
(Seal)	Date: <u>Nec 5, 2018</u>