

# Introduction to the Monroe County Monumentation Law, Local Law No. 6 of 2019

Revisions were made to Local Law No. 6 originally adopted in 1971 to address the many changes in survey technology and capabilities as well as the monetary penalty associated with destruction of geodetic survey monuments. The Monroe County Legislature adopted Local Law No. 6 of 2019 on June 11, 2019. Subsequently the Monumentation Law Guide was developed and revised to address the revisions and the Monroe County Surveyors Office webpage was also significantly updated and includes the current local law and guide.

Prior to submission to the Monroe County Legislature for adoption in September 2018 the proposed revised Monumentation Law was shared with the board of directors of Genesee Valleys Land Surveyors Association with a request for questions and comments. After following up with the association several times through the end of January 2019 one comment was received and addressed regarding the use of a digital land surveyor's seal.

The following changes to the law pertain to preparation of subdivision and resubdivision maps:

1. The minimum geodetic monument tie in distance was increased from 2500' to 5000' except where the subdivision or resubdivision has from one to five lots the tie in distance was increased from 1200' to 2500'.

The increased tie in distances result from consideration of significant changes in survey technology since the requirements in the original law while also providing for reasonable requirements for the surveyor without GPS/GNSS equipment. The original requirements were formulated when the typical surveyor was using a steel tape and theodolite. Absent called for survey monumentation in a subdivision or resubdivision, the tie in requirement to passive geodetic monuments always provided a physical means of survey retracement. With the changes surveyors have experienced moving between different survey datums and the major datum changes that soon lie ahead, subdivision and resubdivision relationship to passive monuments will have significant survey retracement benefit.

2. To address the accuracy requirements for GPS/GNSS surveys as well as traditional TPS network and local positional accuracy and proportional accuracy acceptable error limits are defined. For positional surveys with analyzed least squares procedures the acceptable network positional accuracy limit is 0.05' and 0.025' for local positional accuracy. For closed loop surveys the acceptable proportional accuracy limit was increased from 1:10,000 to 1:20,000. This will also address the expression of accuracy concerns expressed to this office by surveyors employing GPS/GNSS survey techniques.

3. As a minimum at least three survey monumentation points found or set must be shown. Survey monumentation “to be set” will not be accepted except for along subdivision proposed road right of way monuments that will need to be set after site construction and development have progressed.
4. Proposed easements on subdivision maps must be defined in the same way as property lines with full geometry through either direct annotation or tables.
5. The existing subdivision map checklist will no longer be utilized. Refer to MCSO & Real Property Subdivision Map Requirements for use in conducting the survey and preparation of the map. The Property Subdivision Map Requirements were developed to assist the licensed professional in preparation of the map and does not need to be provided to the Monroe County Surveyors Office for review and approval. The licensed professional should adhere to the requirements through internal quality control procedures thereby minimizing Monroe County Survey Office review time. Please enter the subdivision or resubdivision name in the subject line when emailing maps for preliminary review.

The monetary penalty for disturbance and destruction of a geodetic survey monument was increased from \$150 to \$3000.

Changes in the regulations will begin being enforced October 1, 2021, which allows six months for completion and filing of subdivision and resubdivision maps prepared under the former regulations.