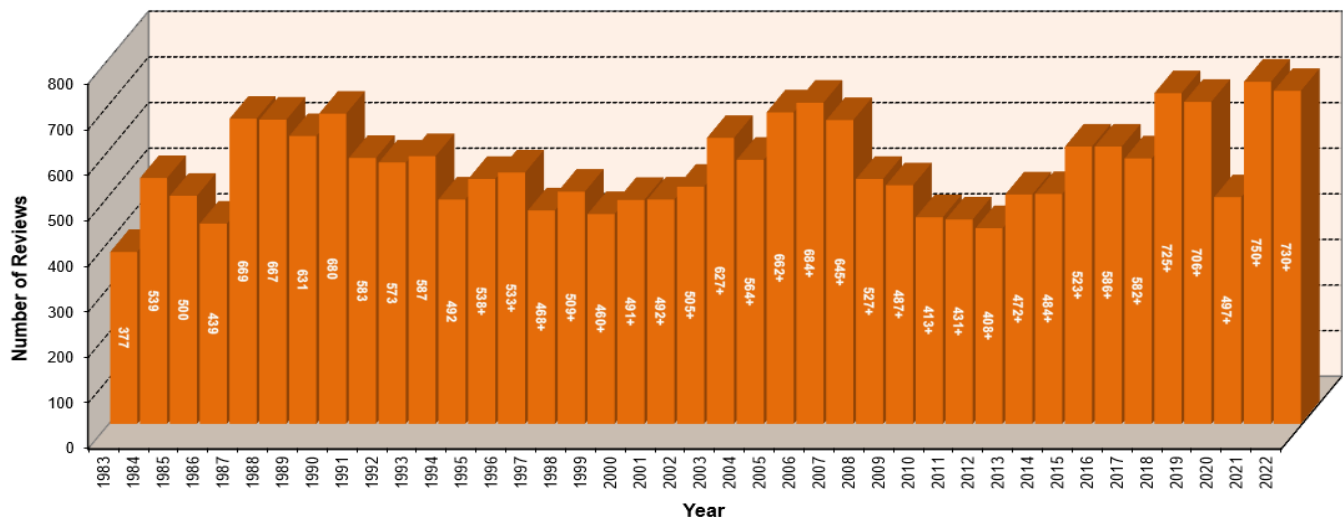


Bar Graph by Year

The bar graph in Figure 1 depicts the total number of applications reviewed by the County Planning Department from 1983 through 2022, a 40-year time frame. The number of application referrals to the County was at an all-time low of 377 in 1983. The highest number of applications received by the County was in 2021, with 750 reviews processed across 704 issued letters. In December 1994, the county began entering into agreements with municipalities throughout the county to streamline the General Municipal Law (GML) process. Reviews that were typically deemed “for local determination” by the Planning Department are now being waived for review by the County if they fall within the selected criteria, and an agreement has been reached between the County and municipality. Of twenty-three municipalities, all five towns and twelve of the eighteen villages have entered into waiver agreements. Therefore, the number of applications reviewed by the County in 1995 through 2022 would have been even higher if all reviews were referred to the Planning Department. After a fall in submissions in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a boom in 2021 once businesses and municipalities were permitted to re-open. Numbers began to decrease in 2022, but only slightly, with 730 items reviewed, a 2.67 percent decrease. In addition, applications received by municipalities may consist of several parts, such as for a site plan and a subdivision application. If the action is before the same board, it is usually reviewed only once, but each action is acted upon independently, making the number of letters issued (682 in 2022) less than what is reflected. The five-year average for the number of development applications reviewed from 2018 through 2022 is 681. The total number of GML applications reviewed yearly is usually reflective of the economic market and construction industry. It will be interesting to see whether the number of applications will continue to decline in 2023, or if they will still remain high.

**Figure 1. Number of GML Applications by Year Reviewed
by the Rockland County Planning Department
1983-2022**



+ : These numbers do not include reviews that were waived because of agreements between the county and municipalities.
Source: GML Access database maintained by the Rockland County Planning Department, Land Use Unit
Prepared by the Rockland County Department of Planning - January 2023