

RESOLUTION NO. 800 -2014, RE-ESTABLISHING THE "SAFE PETS AND FAMILIES PROGRAM" TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY SHELTER FOR PETS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

WHEREAS, when victims of domestic violence go to temporary shelters they are not permitted to take their pets with them; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence victims are often reluctant to leave their homes because, once they leave, the probability increases that the abuser will victimize those left behind, including family pets; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence victims rarely stay at a shelter for longer than ninety (90) days; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 1273-2000 established the "Safe Pets and Families Program" to provide temporary shelter for pets of domestic violence victims; and

WHEREAS, the "Safe Pets and Families Program" lapsed in 2002, but domestic violence advocacy organizations and the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ("SPCA") have expressed a strong interest in re-establishing this program; and

WHEREAS, the SPCA possesses the authority to investigate and enforce laws prohibiting cruelty to animals; and

WHEREAS, the SPCA is willing to administer the "Safe Pet and Families Program" to arrange suitable temporary shelter for pets of domestic violence victims, for a period of up to ninety (90) days, at no cost or expense to the County of Suffolk; and

WHEREAS, the County and the SPCA wish to enter into a service agreement to accomplish the purposes set forth above; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that Article II of Chapter 865 of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CODE is hereby repealed; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc. whereby the SPCA will develop and administer the "Safe Pet and Families Program" to arrange suitable temporary shelter for pets of domestic violence victims, for a period of up to ninety (90) days, within Suffolk County; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that, under this agreement, the SPCA will respond to calls and transport animals to a temporary shelter to be provided by the SPCA, based on referrals from domestic violence service providers, local police departments, and any Suffolk County department or agency; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that the agreement will specify that the County shall incur no costs associated with the development and administration of this program and that the County shall

not indemnify the SPCA for any actions taken in the administration of this program; and be it further

5th RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: October 7, 2014

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: October 16, 2014