

RESOLUTION NO. 731 -2013, AUTHORIZING THE SHERIFF TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR AN INDEPENDENT STUDY OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COUNTY'S ALTERNATIVE TO INCARCERATION PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk Department of Probation's Criminal Court supervision caseload totaled 15,746 individuals in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the County contracts with a number of non-profit organizations, in addition to its own programs, to provide Alternative to Incarceration ("ATI") programs to serve persons convicted of certain crimes, allowing them to receive treatment, education and employment training within their community; and

WHEREAS, most ATI programs provide program enrollees with important information and assistance in addressing issues that may have factored into their involvement in the criminal justice system, all in the effort to reduce recidivism rates among individuals who complete these programs; and

WHEREAS, ATI programs cost less than incarceration and reduce ancillary costs associated with removing persons from their community and family; and

WHEREAS, Suffolk County's jail is overcrowded and Suffolk County's Government agencies are facing pressure from the State Commission on Corrections to build Phase II of the Jail expansion at a potential cost of more than one hundred million dollars; and

WHEREAS, no study has been conducted to determine the effectiveness of the County's current ATI programs; and

WHEREAS, the County should study the effectiveness of the current ATI programs to ensure it is receiving the greatest value for its investment; and

WHEREAS, additional investments in effective ATI programs could lower the jail population and save Suffolk taxpayers significant dollars and improve the lives of individuals facing drug addictions, mental health issues and other problems; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Suffolk County Sheriff is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to issue a Request for Proposals ("RFP") to conduct an independent study of the effectiveness of the ATI programs currently available in the County of Suffolk; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Suffolk County ATI Task Force is hereby created to advise the Suffolk County Sheriff in the development of said RFP; and

3rd RESOLVED, that the ATI Task Force shall be comprised of the following eleven (11) members:

- 1) The Suffolk County Sheriff, or his or her designee;
- 2) The Presiding Officer, or his or her designee;
- 3) The County Executive, or his or her designee;

- 4) The Minority Leader, or his or her designee;
- 5) The Chair of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee, or his or her designee;
- 6) The Director of Probation, or his or her designee;
- 7) The Director of the Division of Mental Health and Hygiene, or his or her designee;
- 8) A representative of the Criminal Court System who is familiar with sentencing and ATI programs, to be designated by the District Administrative Judge;
- 9) A representative of the District Attorney's Office who is familiar with referrals to ATI programs, to be designated by the County District Attorney;
- 10) Representative of the Legal Aid Society; and
- 11) Representative of the Criminal Bar Association;

and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that the entity awarded the contract resulting from the RFP shall conduct the investigation and issue a written report with its findings and recommendations to the Sheriff, the County Executive, each County Legislator and the Clerk of the County Legislature and make a presentation on same to the Public Safety Committee of the County Legislature within 270 days of the effective date of this Resolution; and be it further

5th RESOLVED, the Sheriff is authorized to use available Sheriff's Asset Forfeiture funds to pay for the study; and be it further

6th 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: September 12, 2013

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: September 25, 2013