

RESOLUTION NO. 92 -2018, ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO REDUCE SINGLE USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk continues to be a national leader in the field of environmental protection and pollution reduction; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the County has implemented new initiatives to combat litter and reduce nitrogen in surface and ground waters; and

WHEREAS, single use products made from large plastics, including food containers, bags, straws and cups, are a source of litter, clogging landfills and waterways with refuse that will not biodegrade; and

WHEREAS, due to its composition single use plastic litter and refuse are a nearly permanent form of contamination on land and in waterways; and

WHEREAS, Suffolk County's environment is an economic engine for tourism, and critical to our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the precious natural resources that are vital to our communities, economy and way of life, the County should convene a task force of leaders in government, environmental protection and business to develop a long term plan to reduce single use plastics and to ensure these products are reused or recycled instead of simply being discarded; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Single Use Plastic Reduction Task Force ("Task Force") is hereby established to develop a strategy for reducing the use of plastic products and to develop mechanisms to encourage the reduction of their use as well as the recycling or reuse of single use plastic products in Suffolk County; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall consist of the following twelve (12) members:

- 1) The Chair of the Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee of the County Legislature, or his or her designee, who shall serve as Chair;
- 2) The Presiding Officer of the County Legislature, or his or her designee;
- 3) The County Executive, or his or her designee;
- 4) The Commissioner of the Department of Health Services, or his or her designee;
- 5) A representative of Suffolk County Community College;
- 6) A representative of Stony Brook University;

- 7) A representative of the Suffolk County Town Supervisors Association;
- 8) A representative of the Long Island Restaurant Association;
- 9) A representative from a chamber of commerce in one of the 5 western towns, to be appointed by the Legislature;
- 10) A representative from a chamber of commerce in one of the 5 eastern towns, to be appointed by the Legislature; and
- 11) Two (2) representatives of environmental advocacy organizations, to be appointed by the Legislature;

and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall hold its first meeting no later than thirty (30) days after the oaths of office of all members have been filed, which meeting shall be convened by the Chair, for the purpose of organization, and the selection of a vice chairperson and a secretary; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that the members of said Task Force shall serve without compensation and shall serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall hold regular meetings, keep a record of all its proceedings, and determine the rules of its own proceedings with special meetings to be called by the chairperson upon his or her own initiative or upon receipt of a written request therefor signed by at least three (3) members of the Task Force. Written notice of the time and place of such special meetings shall be given by the secretary to each member at least four (4) days before the date fixed by the notice for such special meeting; and be it further

6th **RESOLVED**, that seven (7) members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum to transact the business of the Task Force at both regular and special meetings; and be it further

7th **RESOLVED**, that clerical services involving the month-to-month operation of this Task Force, as well as supplies and postage as necessary, will be provided by the staff of the County Legislature; and be it further

8th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force may conduct such informal hearings and meetings at any place or places within the County of Suffolk for the purpose of obtaining necessary information or other data to assist it in the proper performance of its duties and functions as it deems necessary; and be it further

9th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force may delegate to any member of the Task Force the power and authority to conduct such hearings and meetings; and be it further

10th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall cooperate with the Legislative Committees of the County Legislature and make available to each Committee's use, upon request, any records and other data it may accumulate or obtain; and be it further

11th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to hold at least two (2) public hearings throughout the County of Suffolk to assemble the data and information necessary to complete the valuation, study, and report required with all reasonable efforts to be made to ascertain the views, wishes, and opinions of the residents of Suffolk County; and be it further

12th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall issue a written report after a comprehensive study on the challenges facing the County with respect to single use plastic products and develop findings and recommendations, including a long-term plan to reduce the use of single use plastic products and encourage the reuse or recycling of same through the use of multiple strategies and tactics, as well as develop a system for tracking the success of such a plan; and be it further

13th **RESOLVED**, that the written report shall be submitted to each member of the County Legislature, the Clerk of the Legislature and the County Executive within one year of the effective date of this resolution for review, consideration and appropriate action, if necessary, by the entire County Legislature; and be it further

14th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall expire, and the terms of office of its members terminate, as of December 31, 2019 at which time the Task Force shall deposit all the records of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

15th **RESOLVED**, that this study shall not be performed by any outside consultant or consulting firm unless explicit approval and authorization for such consultant or consulting firm is granted pursuant to a duly enacted resolution of the County Legislature; and be it further

16th **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: March 6, 2018

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: March 13, 2018