

**RESOLUTION NO. 37 -2017, ESTABLISHING A PARKS
WATCH PROGRAM FOR COUNTY PARKLAND**

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk owns thousands of acres of active and passive parkland for the use and enjoyment of County residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, recently, illegal dumping and pollution were uncovered at West Hills County Park; and

WHEREAS, it is impossible for park rangers and law enforcement officers to inspect every acre of land for signs of problems on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, many County park holdings are surrounded by residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation should establish a program that recruits and encourages Suffolk County residents to protect County parklands by watching for and reporting suspicious activity, like the Police Department's successful "Community Watch" program; and

WHEREAS, a Parks Watch Program would aid the County in identifying locations of dumping and other illegal activity and engage the community's surrounding County parkland as stakeholders and stewards; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation ("the Department") is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to establish a Parks Watch Program to encourage residents living adjacent to County parkland to be vigilant and report suspicious activity occurring on County property; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Department will conduct outreach to neighbors of County parkland to inform them of the program and encourage their participation; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the Department shall establish a dedicated webpage, phone number, and email address for use by the Parks Watch Program and any other initiative which allows residents to report suspicious activity to the Department; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that the Parks Watch Program shall be fully operational and implemented within 120 days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

5th RESOLVED, that the Department shall issue a written report on the progress and efficacy of the Parks Watch Program to the County Executive and each member of the County Legislature and the Clerk of the Legislature by December 1, 2017; 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: February 7, 2017

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: February 22, 2017