

**RESOLUTION NO. 694 -2018, ESTABLISHING A “REDUCE COUNTY SPENDING” TASK FORCE**

**WHEREAS**, since 2012 Suffolk County has borrowed over \$550 million for its operational expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, it is projected that in 2019 Suffolk County will borrow another \$150 million to pay for operational expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, such borrowing has in large part caused four down-grades of Suffolk County’s bond rating since 2012, increasing the interest rates and costs associated with such borrowing; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the opinion of this Legislature that further increases in County taxes and fees would be detrimental and harmful to Suffolk County’s taxpayers and economy; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the opinion of this Legislature that reducing the spending by Suffolk County is the most appropriate way to reduce Suffolk County’s chronic deficits and borrowing problems; and

**WHEREAS**, a task force including both County officials and experienced, independent experts would potentially provide this Legislature with new and innovative ways to reduce spending by Suffolk County and reduce its budget deficits; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that a Reduce County Spending Task Force (“Task Force”) is hereby established to study and recommend ways to reduce spending in Suffolk County’s 2019 Operating Budget; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall be comprised of the following seven (7) members:

- 1) The Presiding Officer, or his or her designee;
- 2) The County Executive, or his or her designee;
- 3) The Minority Caucus Leader, or his or her designee;
- 4) The Suffolk County Comptroller, or his or her designee;
- 5) A representative from the business community, appointed by the Presiding Officer;
- 6) A representative from the business community, appointed by the County Executive; and

- 7) A representative from the business community, appointed by the Minority Caucus Leader;

and be it further

**3rd** **RESOLVED**, that the County Attorney and the Counsel to the Suffolk County Legislature will provide assistance, upon request, to the Task Force; and be it further

**4th** **RESOLVED**, that the the Task Force shall be selected and meet no later than thirty (30) days from the passage of this resolution; and be it further

**5th** **RESOLVED**, that the members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation; and be it further

**6th** **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall elect a Chairperson from among its membership, hold regular meetings, keep a record of 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 affixed by the notice of such special meeting; and be it further

**7th** **RESOLVED**, that four (4) members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of transacting the business of the Task Force at both regular and special meetings; and be it further

**8th** **RESOLVED**, that the clerical services involving the month-to-month operation of this Task Force, as well as the supplies and postage, will be provided by the staff of the County Legislature; and be it further

**9th** **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force will conduct at least one public hearing to obtain citizen input regarding the purposes of the Task Force and may conduct informal hearings and meetings at any place or places within the County of Suffolk for the purposes of obtaining necessary information to assist in the proper performance of its duties and functions; and be it further

**10th** **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall submit a written report of its findings and determinations, together with its recommendations, to each member of the County Legislature, the Clerk of the County Legislature and the County Executive within seventy-five (75) days of the administration of the oaths of office for all Task Force members for consideration, review and appropriate action, if necessary by the County Legislature; and be it further

**11th** **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall expire and the terms of office of its members terminate on submission of its report to the County Executive and the County Legislature; and be it further

**12th** **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 5, 2018

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: September 24, 2018