

**RESOLUTION NO. 139 -2019, NOTIFYING PUBLIC UTILITIES
OF VACANT PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk is the foreclosing municipality against real property owners who fail to pay their property taxes; and

WHEREAS, many of the properties taken by the County for delinquent taxes are unoccupied at the time the deed is taken; and

WHEREAS, vacant homes are frequently targeted by squatters, who break into the structure and begin living there on a short- or long-term basis; and

WHEREAS, squatters are a liability issue for the property owner and often damage the homes they are illegally living in during their stay; and

WHEREAS, many squatters connect to public utilities to obtain heat, water and electricity services for the homes they occupy; and

WHEREAS, the County should notify all public utilities when they acquire the tax deed to a vacant property so that utilities are aware when a new property connecting to their services may be inhabited illegally; now, therefore be it

1st **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Division of Real Property Acquisition and Management in the Department of Economic Development and Planning (“the Division”) is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to notify all public utilities, including, but not limited to, PSEG Long Island, the Suffolk County Water Authority or water district servicing the property in question and National Grid, within fourteen (14) days of acquiring a new parcel and determining that the home or structure on said parcel is vacant; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, that the Division is further directed to review its current holdings to determine if any parcels are vacant, create a list of said vacant parcels and distribute this list to all public utilities within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

3rd **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)(26) 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 routine or continuing administration and management not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment, 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 5, 2019

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: March 8, 2019