

**RESOLUTION NO. 400 -2019, ESTABLISHING A RECIDIVISM
REDUCTION THROUGH WORK RELEASE TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, recidivism is a significant problem among low-level offenders residing in Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, low-level offenders have a higher chance of re-offending if not given the proper tools upon initial released from a correctional facility; and

WHEREAS, it has been shown that the retention of employment after release from prison reduces the rate at which a low-level offender will re-offend; and

WHEREAS, securing jobs for released offenders is frequently completed through an inmate work-release program that is of no cost to the employer; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor, Licensing and Consumer Affairs operates job training programs to provide individuals with marketable skills and connects people re-entering the job market with opportunities that match these skills; and

WHEREAS, the County also incurs substantial costs associated with the incarceration of low-level offenders who re-offend; and

WHEREAS, presently, the County is engaging in very basic maintenance and up keep of County facilities due to fiscal constraints; and

WHEREAS, the County should internally examine the development of a three (3) year pilot program for certain low-level offenders in the County jail to participate in a work-release pilot program assisting with maintenance of County buildings and grounds; and

WHEREAS, such a pilot program would benefit both inmates receiving job training and possible placement upon release as well as the County, through both additional low cost labor and the reduction of costs associated with decreasing inmate recidivism; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that a Recidivism Reduction Through Work Release Task Force ("Task Force") is hereby established to discuss and develop a three (3) year pilot program that aims to reduce the recidivism rates of low-level offenders by training certain low-level offenders through a work-release pilot program providing maintenance services at County facilities and creating a pathway to employment with the County in non-competitive custodial positions upon release; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall consist of the following five (5) members:

- 1) the Chair of the Health Committee, or his or her designee, who shall serve as Chairperson;
- 2) the County Executive, or his or her designee;

- 3) the County Sherriff, or his or her designee;
- 4) the President of the Association of Municipal Employees, or his or her designee; and
- 5) the Commissioner of the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Consumer Affairs, or his or her designee;

and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the following County officials shall be non-voting ex-officio members of this Task Force:

- 1) the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, or his or her designee;
- 2) the Director of the Office of Labor Relations, or his or her designee;
- 3) the Director of the Department of Probation, or his or her designee; and
- 4) the Director of the Office of Budget and Management, or his or her designee;

and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall hold its first meeting no later than thirty (30) days after oaths of office of all members have been filed, which meeting shall be convened for the purpose of organization and the appointment of a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and a secretary; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that the members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation and shall serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities; and be it further

6th **RESOLVED**, that the Task force shall hold regular meetings, keep a record of all 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 therefore signed by at least two (2) 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 meetings; and be it further

7th **RESOLVED**, that three (3) members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum to transact business of the Task Force at both regular and special meetings; and be it further

8th **RESOLVED**, that the clerical services involving month-to-month operations 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

9th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall engage in a comprehensive study and analysis of the effect of the development of a work-release pilot program for certain low-level

offenders with a path to County employment. This study shall include an examination of post-release employment on the rate of low-level offender recidivism in the County, the potential cost savings to the County associated with decreasing recidivism, the costs and possible savings to the County associated with the operation of such a work-release pilot program, and determine if giving low-level offenders non-competitive, County, custodial jobs during the pilot program and upon release will decrease the instances of these offenders re-offending while improving maintenance of County properties. The analysis will also determine how to best implement a three (3) year pilot program for placing low-level offenders in these recommended positions; and be it further

10th **RESOLVED**, that this 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 Legislature, and the County Executive within 180 days of the effective date of this resolution for review, consideration, and appropriate action, if necessary, by the entire County Legislature; and be it further

11th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall expire, and the terms of office of its members terminate upon the completion and submission of their report, at which time the Task Force shall deposit all records of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

12th **RESOLVED**, that this study shall not be performed by an 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

13th **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: May 14, 2019

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: May 28, 2019