

**RESOLUTION NO. 71 -2020, ESTABLISHING A COASTAL
RESILIENCY AND SEA LEVEL RISE TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, sea level rise has led to accelerated coastal erosion worldwide and is of particular concern to Long Island, with threats of destruction to Suffolk County's 980 miles of coastline; and

WHEREAS, one of the County's main draws to tourism is its many beaches and waterfront properties, which could be ruined by coastal erosion if these environmental changes are not addressed; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which Suffolk County addresses these issues will affect both private and County-owned properties, critical habitats, and the viability of our coastline; and

WHEREAS, without any policies in place on the County-level, many local municipalities are struggling to combat the accelerated coastal erosion and sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, a task force should be created to develop regional coastal resiliency policies to assist municipalities when making decisions that could affect Suffolk's coastline in the future; now, therefore be it

1st **RESOLVED**, that the Coastal Resiliency and Sea Level Rise Task Force ("Task Force") is hereby established to develop coastal resiliency policies and recommendations to assist Suffolk County and the municipalities located therein in protecting coastlines from erosion and other environmental damages due to sea level rise; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, the Task Force shall consist of the following twenty-one (21) members:

- 1) The Chair of the Public Works, Transportation, and Energy 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 Public Works, or his or her designee;
- 5) One representative from each of the ten Suffolk County Towns;
- 6) A representative from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation;
- 7) A representative from the New York State Department of State;
- 8) A representative from the United States Army Corps of Engineers;

- 9) A representative from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County;
- 10) A representative of the Peconic Estuary Program;
- 11) A representative of the Nature Conservancy; and
- 12) A representative from the New York State Department of Transportation;

and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that 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 the 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 eleven (11) 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 shall meet at least ten (10) times over the course of a twelve (12) month period; and be it further

9th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall issue a written report after a comprehensive study on the challenges facing the County with respect to sea level rise and shall present policy recommendations that will help protect Suffolk County's coastlines from rising sea levels and coastal erosion; and be it further

10th **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

11th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall expire, and the terms of office of its members terminate, as of March 1, 2021 at which time the Task Force shall deposit all the records of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

12th **RESOLVED**, that this review 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

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: February 11, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: February 19, 2020