

RESOLUTION NO. 439 -2020, ESTABLISHING AN INTERNAL WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP NEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, Suffolk County is currently grappling with significant challenges associated with the investigation of child abuse and mistreatment; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Department of Social Services and the Police Department work together when investigating these types of allegations to ensure the safety and welfare of children who may be at risk of significant harm; and

WHEREAS, a working group should be established to immediately bring the necessary County employees together to examine current operational models and identify policies and procedures which can be improved upon to ensure that CPS investigations are conducted with optimal support from all other County agencies; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that an internal working group is hereby established to analyze the current processes and procedures for information exchange between the Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protective Services and the Suffolk County Police Department and recommend improvements to communication between these entities that will provide better and more timely access to information, as well as other law enforcement agencies, when investigating claims brought to the Division; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the following nine (9) members shall serve on the working group:

- 1) A legislator selected by the Presiding Officer, who shall serve as chair;
- 2) A legislator selected by the Minority Leader;
- 3) The Commissioner of the Department of Social Services;
- 4) The Commissioner of the Suffolk County Police Department;
- 5) The direct manager of the Child Protective Services Bureau in the Department of Social Services;
- 6) A representative of the Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association;
- 7) A representative of the Suffolk County Superior Officers Association;
- 8) A representative of Suffolk County Association of Municipal Employees;
and
- 9) The County Executive, or his designee;

and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the working group shall convene within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that the working group shall be charged with examining and evaluating existing policies, procedures for the Child Protective Services Bureau (hereinafter "the Bureau") in the Department of Social Services and develop specific recommendations on improvements that can be made to the exchange of information between the Bureau and the Suffolk County Police Department when investigating claims of child abuse or maltreatment to ensure that critical information is communicated among agencies in an efficient and effective manner; and be it further

5th RESOLVED, that the working group shall issue a report containing their findings and recommendations for policies and procedures to improve communication between the Bureau, DSS and the Police Department. This report shall include recommended changes that can be implemented immediately to improve communication in the near-term as well as larger structural reforms, including the possible addition or creation of new positions, which will ensure greater and better communication between the departments permanently; and be it further

6th RESOLVED, that a written report of the recommendations of the working group shall be provided to the County Executive, Clerk of the Legislature and each member of the County Legislature within 120 days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

7th RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon being signed by the County Executive; and be it further

8th 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: June 9, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: June 12, 2020

**RESOLUTION NO. 583 -2020, AMENDING RESOLUTION
NO. 439-2020 TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS IN THE
WORKING GROUP**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 439-2020 created an internal working group to develop new policies and procedures to enhance communication between law enforcement and the department of social services; and

WHEREAS, there are additional entities which may be able to provide important insights on these issues and should be included as members of the working group; and

WHEREAS, the deadline should also be extended to allow for additional time for the group to conduct their work; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 439-2020 should be amended to add new members to the working group and provide 60 additional days for the issuance of their written report; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, the 2nd RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 439-2020 is hereby amended as follows:

* * * * *

2nd RESOLVED, that the following [nine (9)] thirteen (13) members shall serve on the working group:

- 1) A legislator selected by the Presiding Officer, who shall serve as chair;
- 2) A legislator selected by the Minority Leader;
- 3) The Commissioner of the Department of Social Services;
- 4) The Commissioner of the Suffolk County Police Department;
- 5) The direct manager of the Child Protective Services Bureau in the Department of Social Services;
- 6) A representative of the Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association;
- 7) A representative of the Suffolk County Superior Officers Association;
- 8) A representative of Suffolk County Association of Municipal Employees;
- [and]
- 9) The County Executive, or his designee;
- 10) A representative from the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office;
- 11) A representative from the Suffolk County Detective's Association;
- 12) A representative from the New York State Troopers, Inc.; and
- 13) A representative from the Suffolk County East End Chief's Association;

* * * * *

and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, the 6th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 439-2020 is hereby amended as follows:

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6th RESOLVED, that a written report of the recommendations of the working group shall be provided to the County Executive, Clerk of the Legislature and each member of the County Legislature within [120] 180 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) and (33) 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 insofar as these actions constitute 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.

[] Brackets denote deletion of existing language
___ Underlining denotes addition of new language

DATED: July 21, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: August 3, 2020