

Introduced by Presiding Officer Calarco,
Deputy Presiding Officer Hahn and Legislators Cilmi, Fleming, Gonzalez, Kennedy, McCaffrey
And Spencer

Laid on Table 3/17/2020

**PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION NO. 8 -2020, AUTHORIZING
RETENTION OF COUNSEL TO ASSIST THE SPECIAL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, Thomas Valva died on January 17, 2020 under suspicious circumstances while there were open investigations into his family and living circumstances amid allegations of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive established two (2) internal task forces, comprised predominantly of appointees from his administration and the Department of Social Services, to examine different elements of this case; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section C2-8 of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER, the County Legislature has the authority to investigate the performance of any function, office or department in County government; and

WHEREAS, the Presiding Officer has established a Special Legislative Committee to review the circumstances surrounding the death of Thomas Valva and to recommend any necessary policy changes to prevent such a tragedy from occurring in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Special Legislative Committee should be empowered to retain Special Counsel with expertise in family law investigations to assist in their investigation; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Special Legislative Committee is hereby empowered to retain Special Counsel, to be selected upon the consensus of the committee members, with the Presiding Officer executing the contract with Special Counsel for such services; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the County shall pay for the costs associated with this investigation using the County Attorney's fund for the retention of outside counsel; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the Budget Review Office and the Presiding Officer shall review and process for payment vouchers forwarded by the attorney retained for the purpose specified in this resolution.

DATED: March 17, 2020

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY PURSUANT TO SECTION C2-15(A) OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER