

RESOLUTION NO. 365 -2020, AMENDING THE 2020 ADOPTED OPERATING BUDGET AND SETTING PRIORITIES FOR STAFFING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, Suffolk County has a duty to protect the health and safety of its residents, especially those children who are in contact with Child Protective Services ("CPS") within the Department of Social Services ("DSS"); and

WHEREAS, in light of the recent and untimely death of Thomas Valva, it is clear that CPS would benefit from hiring additional caseworkers so that each individual caseworker can maintain a reasonable caseload and be able to fully investigate the cases assigned; and

WHEREAS, CPS caseworkers are hired into County service as caseworker trainees, during which period the employees are trained on County procedures for investigating complaints of abuse and maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Operating Budget should be amended to add 8 additional caseworkers to the Child Welfare Direct Services and Child Welfare Support Services units within the Department of Social Services to ensure that there are sufficient caseworker trainees who will be trained and able to perform this critical function once their training is complete; and

WHEREAS, Section 4-31 (G) of the Suffolk County Charter now allows amendment of the County Operating Budget by County Legislators four times during the fiscal year as long as the amendment reduces, lowers, terminates or cancels appropriations; abolishes positions of employment; terminates contract agencies; terminates or reduces the size of County programs or departments, or makes transfers of appropriations that are offset by reductions in other programs; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, the 2020 County Operating Budget be amended as follows to create eight Caseworker Trainee positions in the Department of Social Services:

<u>Fd-Agy-Unit-Act</u>	<u>Spec. No.</u>	<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number Created</u>
001-DSS-6010-2200	3002	Caseworker Trainee	17	7
001-DSS-6010-2700	3002	Caseworker Trainee	17	1

and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that funding for the positions established in this Resolution shall be obtained from existing unused appropriations within the Department of Social Services and the filling of these additional CPS caseworker trainee positions shall be made a priority for DSS over the filling of other non-essential vacant positions; 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: May 19, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: May 27, 2020