

RESOLUTION NO. 739 -2020, ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

WHEREAS, the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis has caused devastating impacts in the United States, and particularly New York, since March 2020; and

WHEREAS, the effects of this unprecedented crisis include, but are not limited to: the highest rate of unemployment in our nation's history, severe economic and social services impacts on states and municipalities, and, most painfully, the tragic loss of thousands of Suffolk County residents; and

WHEREAS, the long-term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic will last for years to come, devastating communities and families long after the immediate health impacts of the virus have been addressed; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to study the various impacts that this crisis has had in Suffolk County in order to better position the County in addressing future health crises when they arise; and

WHEREAS, a task force should be created to study the economic, health, social, housing, and labor impacts of COVID-19 in Suffolk County, determine areas of the County where disparities in those impacts exist, and make recommendations and propose solutions to remediate these impacts and disparities when confronting future health emergencies; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Coronavirus Review Task Force ("Task Force") is hereby established to study the various health, economic, social, housing, and employment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Suffolk County; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall consist of the following eleven (11) members:

- 1) The Presiding Officer of the County Legislature, or his or her designee, who shall serve as chairperson;
- 2) The Minority Leader 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 Economic Development and Planning, or his or her designee;
- 5) The Commissioner of the Department of Health Services, or his or her designee;
- 6) The Commissioner of the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Consumer Affairs or his or her designee;

- 7) The Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, or his or her designee;
- 8) The Director of the Suffolk County Division of Real Property Acquisition and Management in the Department of Economic Development and Planning, or his or her designee;
- 9) A representative from the Suffolk County Supervisors Association; and
- 10) Two representatives of Stony Brook University, with one of the representatives specifically from the hospital, to be appointed by the Legislature;

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 said 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 six (6) 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 the Task Force may conduct such informal hearings and meetings at any place or places within the County of Suffolk for the purpose of obtaining necessary information or other data to assist it in the proper performance of its duties and functions as it deems necessary; and be it further

8th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force may delegate to any member of the Task Force the power and authority to conduct such hearings and meetings; and be it further

9th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall cooperate with the Legislative Committees of the County Legislature and make available to each Committee's use, upon request, any records and other data it may accumulate or obtain; and be it further

10th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to hold at least two (2) public hearings throughout the County of Suffolk to assemble the data and information necessary to complete the valuation, study, and report required with all reasonable efforts to be made to ascertain the views, wishes, and opinions of the residents of Suffolk County; and be it further

11th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall be charged with examining and evaluating the various health, economic, social, housing, and employment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Suffolk County. The Task Force shall also review all impacted areas and the functions and operations in Suffolk County to specifically determine locations where disparities in those impacts exist and ascertain which communities within the County were the most deeply affected. The Task Force shall determine which measures taken by the County were effective and what actions should be taken to increase resiliency and improve responses to future health crises. The Task Force shall propose actions to be considered by the County to remediate the disparities, increase resiliency, and improve responses to future health crises; and be it further

12th **RESOLVED**, that a written report of the findings and recommendations of the Task Force shall be provided to the County Executive, Clerk of the Legislature and each member of the County Legislature within 270 days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

13th **RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately; and be it further

14th **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.

DATED: October 6, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: October 19, 2020