

RESOLUTION NO. 881-2020, DIRECTING THE SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING COLLEGE CREDIT TO INDIVIDUALS WHO COMPLETE THE POLICE EXPLORERS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Police Department maintains a Police Explorers Program for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20 who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, individuals participating in the program are called “explorers” and are taught the importance of higher education, self-discipline, and respect for diversity and human dignity through training, involvement in community service projects, and other program events; and

WHEREAS, the program is geared towards providing explorers with the opportunity to learn from positive role models and engage in the development of the following areas: life skills, service learning, character education, leadership experience, and career; and

WHEREAS, the program is currently run on a volunteer basis, with many explorers deciding to enter law enforcement directly after graduating high school; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to explore the possibility of providing Police Explorers Program participants with college credits to incentivize participants to attend a higher education institution prior to joining law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Police Department and the Suffolk County Community College should jointly study the feasibility of providing college credits to individuals who complete the Police Explorers Program; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Suffolk County Police Department is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed, in partnership with Suffolk County Community College, to study the feasibility of providing college credits to individuals who successfully complete the Suffolk County Police Explorers Program; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Suffolk County Police Department and Suffolk County Community College shall examine the New York State requirements for courses to provide college credit, determine whether the Suffolk County Police Department’s Police Explorers Program can currently provide credits to participants, and ascertain the fiscal implications of providing credits for such a program; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that a written report containing the findings of this study shall be delivered to the County Executive and each member of the County Legislature within one hundred and eighty (180) days of this Resolution; and be it further

4th 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: December 1, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: December 14, 2020