

RESOLUTION NO. 962-2020, ESTABLISHING THE TASK FORCE TO ASSIST RETIRED VETERANS (“SUFFOLK COUNTY TARV”) TO ASSIST AND SUPPORT RETIRED AND RETIRING VETERANS TO REMAIN IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

WHEREAS, Suffolk County has the largest population of veterans of the United States Armed Forces in the State of New York, who merit honor and support based upon the untold sacrifices they have made to protect and defend our nation; and

WHEREAS, due to various obstacles and challenges, many retiring veterans are leaving their homes in Suffolk County to reside in other areas of the country; and

WHEREAS, the County has implemented programs and incentives to aid residents who are retired or are on a fixed income to help them stay on Long Island during their retirement; and

WHEREAS, many veterans preparing to retire or who are already retired fall into those categories but may not be availing themselves of the currently available programs; and

WHEREAS, retiring veterans may also have unique concerns that are not currently being addressed by existing programs and policies; and

WHEREAS, in order to offer Suffolk County veterans the opportunity to realize the quality of life in retirement they deserve and have earned through their invaluable sacrifice, a task force should be established to examine the challenges that veterans face while preparing for retirement in Suffolk County and to develop solutions to support retired and retiring veterans in our communities; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Task Force to Assist Retiring Veterans (“Suffolk County TARV” or “Task Force”) is hereby established, to assess the various programs and incentives currently available to aid and support retired and retiring veterans in Suffolk County in their ability to remain in our communities during retirement, and to enjoy the quality of life they have earned and merit through their invaluable sacrifice; and to develop various strategies for implementing new policies and/or programs to assist veterans who want to remain in Suffolk County throughout their retirement; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Suffolk County TARV shall consist of the following eight (8) members:

- 1) The Presiding Officer of the County Legislature, or his or her designee;
- 2) The Chair of the Veteran and Consumer Affairs Committee of the County Legislature, or his or her designee
- 3) The Chair of the Ways and Means Committee of the County Legislature, or his or her designee;

- 4) The Chair of the Seniors and Human Services Committee of the County Legislature, or his or her designee;
- 5) The County Executive, or his or her designee;
- 6) The Director of the Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency, or his or her designee;
- 7) A representative of the Suffolk County Women Veterans Advisory Board, to be appointed by the Legislature; and
- 8) The Director of the Suffolk County Office for the Aging, or his or her designee;

and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the chairperson of the Task Force shall be selected by a majority of the membership of the Task Force; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, 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 for the purpose of organization, and the selection of a chairperson, vice chairperson and a secretary; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that members of said Task Force shall serve without compensation and shall serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities; and be it further

6th **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

7th **RESOLVED**, that five (5) 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

8th **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

9th **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

10th **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

11th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall be charged with examining and evaluating the programs and incentives currently available to retired and retiring veterans for assistance in areas including, but not limited to, housing, heating, nutrition, mental health, wellness, continuing education and other support services in Suffolk County; determining if these programs are being underutilized by veterans and the reasons for such underutilization; identifying obstacles and challenges to retired veterans effectively participating in available programs and incentives and proposing solutions to address these issues; identifying unmet needs in the target population; and developing recommendations and strategies for new programs and/or incentives to aid retired or retiring veterans who wish to remain in Suffolk County throughout their retirement; and be it further

12th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall issue a report containing the findings, determinations, and recommendations for action to aid retired or retiring veterans who desire to remain in Suffolk County; and be it further

13th **RESOLVED**, that the 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 180 days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

14th **RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately; and be it further

15th **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 15, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: December 21, 2020