

RESOLUTION NO. 588-2021, DESIGNATING JULY AS “SMART LAWN WATERING MONTH” IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

WHEREAS, Suffolk County’s drinking water is supplied by sole source aquifers, with Long Island having sufficient, but not a limitless supply of groundwater; and

WHEREAS, over-pumping of our sole-source aquifers can have negative impacts on water quality and water quantity; and

WHEREAS, residential outdoor water use in the United States accounts for more than 9 billion gallons of water each day, mainly for landscape irrigation; and

WHEREAS, experts estimate that as much as 50% of this water is wasted due to overwatering caused by inefficiencies in irrigation methods and systems; and

WHEREAS, in Suffolk County, about 70% of all water pumped by Suffolk County Water Authority is used for outdoor purposes like landscape irrigation; and

WHEREAS, increased pumping leads to increased infrastructure costs for the water supplier, which can, in turn, increase rates to consumers; and

WHEREAS, simple actions, such as the use of rain sensors, smart controllers and best irrigation practices, can be implemented to reduce water consumption; and

WHEREAS, Suffolk County wishes to designate the month of July as “Smart Lawn Watering Month” to focus attention on the amount of water used each day for landscape irrigation and to encourage residents to implement best irrigation practices; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that beginning in 2021 and continuing every year thereafter the month of July shall be designated as “Smart Lawn Watering Month” in Suffolk County to encourage the use of best irrigation practices; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that commencing in 2021 and continuing every year thereafter, that the Department of Public Work is hereby authorized, empowered and directed, pursuant to Section C8-2(W) of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER to illuminate the north side of the H. Lee Dennison Executive Office Building facing Veterans Memorial Highway with a blue glow on the evening of July 13th; 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) 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: June 22, 2021

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: July 9, 2021