

Intro. Res. No. 1006-2022

Laid on Table 1/3/2022

Introduced by Presiding Officer on request of the County Executive and Legislators Krupski, Fleming, Hahn, Anker

RESOLUTION NO. 19-2022, APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN CONNECTION WITH PRESERVING FARMLAND FOR THE FUTURE (CP 8701)

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Economic Development and Planning has requested for Preserving Farmland for the Future; and

WHEREAS, agriculture, as an essential element of Long Island's economy and cultural heritage, must be preserved in the face of rising land values; and

WHEREAS, the permanent preservation of 30,000 acres of farmland is considered vital to the local economy, as the supply chain that makes the agricultural industry possible depends on a minimum threshold of working farms to sustain mid-tier processors and distributors, labor force, educational infrastructure and supporting industries; and

WHEREAS, Suffolk's 560 farms help to anchor the tourism economy, employ more than 4,600 people and generate \$226 million in sales annually; and

WHEREAS, Suffolk County created the nation's first Farmland Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program in 1974; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, Suffolk County has preserved 11,000 acres of agricultural lands independently and 9,000 acres through partnerships with land trusts and local Municipalities; and

WHEREAS, this capital project will provide funding to help contribute to the acquisition target of an additional 10,000 acres of currently unprotected farmland in Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds within the 2022 Capital Budget and Program to cover the cost of said request; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 1027-2020, established the use of a new priority capital ranking system, effective January 1, 2021, as the basis for funding Capital Projects such as this project, and as required, an updated capital project ranking form was completed for this project; and

WHEREAS, the County Legislature has authorized the issuance of \$5,000,000 in Suffolk County Serial Bonds pending adoption of bond resolution; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Lead Agency, hereby finds and determines that the adoption of this resolution constitutes a Type II Action pursuant to Title 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c)(26)(33) as this legislative decision involves routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment. As such, this Legislature has no further responsibilities under SEQRA; and it be further

2nd **RESOLVED**, that it is hereby determined that this project, with a priority ranking of sixty (60) is eligible for approval in accordance with the provisions of Resolution No. 1027-2020; and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the proceeds of \$5,000,000 in Suffolk County Serial Bonds be and they are hereby appropriated as follows:

| <u>Project No.</u> | <u>JC</u> | <u>Project Title</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---|-----------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 525-CAP-8701.216 (Fund 001-Debt Service) | 35 | Preserving Farmland for the Future | \$5,000,000 |

DATED: February 1, 2022

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: February 3, 2022