

HOME RULE MESSAGE REQUESTING THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO AUTHORIZE THE DISCONTINUANCE OF CERTAIN PARKLANDS LANDS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES (SENATE BILL S.9317 / ASSEMBLY BILL A.10417)

WHEREAS, Suffolk County is the owner in fee of certain property at Meschutt Beach County Park located in the Town of Southampton and designated on the Suffolk County Tax Map as Tax Map Nos. 0900-189.00-02.00-01.000 and 0900-189.00-02.00-002.000 (the "County Park"), which are dedicated as parkland and are available to all County residents for active recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, Hampton Bays Water District, in partnership with New York State, is in the process of developing a project for the installation of a High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) subaqueous water main pipe to extend and improve the existing public water supply system, benefitting over 500 homes with increased water pressure, as well as providing increased water pressure to the Park; and

WHEREAS, Hampton Bays Water District has expressed interest, and the County of Suffolk is in the process of negotiating an easement and License agreement with the Hampton Bays Water District, for the purpose of enabling such water district to construct, and repair when necessary, the HDPE water main from the Shinnecock Canal through the park to an existing connection point on Old North Highway which will extend the existing public water supply system to increase and improve the Hampton Bays Water District facilities; and

WHEREAS, in order to proceed with the transaction and the use of the County Park for this purpose, the County must seek the permission of the New York State Legislature, as the proposal seeks to provide a permanent easement of parkland owned by a municipality; and

WHEREAS, Suffolk County must obtain State authorization for the discontinuance of the use and transfer of parkland; now, therefore be it

1st **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature hereby requests the State of New York to enact Senate Bill No. S. 9317 and Assembly Bill No. A. 10417, to authorize the County of Suffolk to discontinue the use of the property, as described therein, and upon the conditions that (1) the County of Suffolk dedicate an amount equal to or greater than the fair market value of the easement interest being conveyed to the acquisition of new parkland and/or capital improvements to existing park and recreational facilities and (2) satisfy any requirements or conditions of the federal government in the event such parklands received any federal funding or assistance for the purchase, maintenance or improvement thereof, as described therein; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, that the agreement or any conveyance of the County's property, shall be subject to the further approval of this Legislature; and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the Clerk of this Legislature is hereby directed to forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Kathleen Hochul; to the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins; to the Speaker of the New York State Assembly,

Hon. Carl E. Heastie; to the Minority Leaders of the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly; and to each member of the Long Island delegation to the New York State Legislature.

DATED: May 17, 2022