

**HOME RULE MESSAGE REQUESTING THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO AUTHORIZE THE DISCONTINUANCE AND TRANSFER OF CERTAIN LANDS FOR PARK PURPOSES (SENATE BILL S.08048A / ASSEMBLY BILL A.09335A)**

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County is the owner in fee of certain property known as the Paul T. Given County Park located in the Town of Smithtown and designated on the Suffolk County Tax Map as 0800-072.00-04.00-026.000, 0800-076.00-04.00-001.000, 0800-072.00-04.00-024.000, and 0800-072.00-04.00-024.000 (the "County Park"), which were dedicated as parkland and are available to all County residents for active recreational purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Smithtown (the "Town") owns certain property known as Bill Richards Town Park (the "Town Park") and located in the Town of Smithtown and designated on the Suffolk County Tax Map as 0800-154.00-4.00-005.000 which is dedicated parkland and available to Town residents for active recreational purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Park is in close proximity to other Town parks, and the Town Park is immediately adjacent to Blydenburgh County Park, and a reciprocal transfer would allow both the County and the Town to consolidate its respective holdings thereby increasing efficiencies with regard to the management and operations of each park, that will benefit the residents of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Smithtown and the County of Suffolk are in agreement that is in the best interest for the Town of Smithtown to transfer its interest in the Town Park to the County, and for the County to transfer its interest in the County Park to the Town of Smithtown, and to continue to allow, after completion of the such transfer or exchange, for all County residents to have access to and use of both parks without disruption as a condition of such transfer; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to proceed with the reciprocal land transfer, the Town and the County must seek the permission of the New York State Legislature, as the proposal seeks to transfer the ownership of parkland 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

**1<sup>st</sup>** **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature hereby requests the State of New York to enact Senate Bill No. S.08048A and Assembly Bill No. A.09335A, to authorize the County of Suffolk to discontinue the use of the property, as described therein upon condition that the County of Suffolk acquire parkland property from the Town of Smithtown, as described therein, and transferred to the jurisdiction of the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and subject to any additional conditions as described therein; and be it further

**2<sup>nd</sup>** **RESOLVED**, that the conveyance of the County's property, and the acquisition of property from the Town of Smithtown, shall be subject to the further approval of this Legislature; and be it further

**3<sup>rd</sup>**            **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