Intro. Res. No. 1473-2009 Laid on Table 6/9/2009
Introduced by Legislator Romaine

RESOLUTION NO. -2009, TO EVALUATE COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR COMMUNITY GARDEN PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk owns diverse properties, from small unbuildable lots to large preserved properties, acquired through Open Space Preservation Programs or by tax default; and

WHEREAS, many of these smaller vacant properties are abandoned and could be utilized as "community gardens", which could be maintained and beautified through license agreements with volunteer organizations; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities, including the City of New York, have instituted "community garden" programs with local volunteer organizations planting and maintaining gardens of flowers or vegetables at no cost to the municipality; and

WHEREAS, engaging the services of volunteer organizations to beautify and enhance County owned properties would alleviate the need for the County workforce to maintain these parcels; and

WHEREAS, the first step toward establishing a "community garden" program is to inventory County properties and determine the number and location of properties that may be available for this program; now, therefore be it

1st **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Department of Environment and Energy, Division of Real Property Acquisition and Management, is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed, to compile a list of properties presently owned by the County of Suffolk and to rate the properties for potential use in a "community garden" program; such list shall include properties that are not currently being used for another County purpose such as drainage, parks, nature preserve, roads, parking, or in the alternative, are not buildable and are located in areas of Suffolk County where the census reflects that the mean income of residents is less than eighty percent (80%) of the mean County income; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, that the Division of Real Property Acquisition and Management is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to issue a request for proposals to identify a vendor to manage a "community garden" program on behalf of the County; and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the Division of Real Property Acquisition and Management shall issue a written status report to this Legislature within one hundred eighty (180) days of the effective date of this resolution detailing the status of their efforts to establish a "community garden" program in accordance with the provisions of this resolution; and be it further

4th **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)(20), (21) and (27) 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 as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, 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:

APPROVED BY:

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County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: