

RESOLUTION NO. 417 -2010, ENDING THE VOUCHER SYSTEM AND DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO HOUSE HOMELESS SEX OFFENDERS

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk, through its Department of Social Services, is obligated to provide housing for all persons who are homeless, including sex offenders; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services has housed most homeless sex offenders in trailers in Riverhead and Westhampton for the past several years; and

WHEREAS, residents of Riverhead and Southampton have complained that it is inequitable to house all sex offenders in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the County has incurred large costs transporting sex offenders to and from the trailers; and

WHEREAS, the condition of the trailers in Riverhead and Westhampton has been the subject of a fair hearing and is a potential source of future litigation; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services and the County Executive's Office have begun to implement a new policy for sex offender emergency housing, whereby the Department gives a sex offender a daily voucher of ninety dollars (\$90.00) and the sex offender is responsible to find their own housing; and

WHEREAS, the new voucher policy is unacceptable because it undermines the central goal of Megan's Law -- to allow residents to be aware of the presence of sex offenders in their community; and

WHEREAS, under the voucher system, sex offenders can be housed in close proximity to families and children; and

WHEREAS, there is no oversight of sex offenders under the voucher policy; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Department of Social Services is hereby directed to terminate the voucher program for homeless sex offenders; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Department of Social Services is directed to develop a new program to provide emergency housing for homeless sex offenders; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the program developed by the Department of Social Services should be equitable, cost effective and provide some measure of oversight of sex offenders; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that the Department of Social Services shall seek shelter providers to provide emergency housing for homeless sex offenders and the providers will be responsible for siting the shelters; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that as part of the new program, no more than one shelter shall be sited in any town or legislative district and no more than six (6) sex offenders shall be housed at any shelter; and be it further

6th **RESOLVED**, the Department of Social Services shall present the program called for herein to the County Executive and the Suffolk County Legislature within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

7th **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: May 11, 2010

****VETOED BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE ON MAY 26, 2010****

****VETO OVERRIDE ADOPTED ON JUNE 8, 2010****