

**RESOLUTION NO. 639 -2010, ESTABLISHING A SUFFOLK COUNTY BUDGET ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Suffolk, like many municipalities across the state and nation, is facing serious fiscal challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the severe national economic recession has exacerbated the County's fiscal difficulties; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past several years Suffolk County has experienced chronic budget shortfalls which has necessitated spending cuts and the sale of County assets; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Suffolk has, over many years, become increasingly dependent on sales tax revenue; the danger of this approach was demonstrated when the County's sales tax revenues decreased sharply in 2008 and 2009 as the recession deepened; and

**WHEREAS**, the County's General Fund property tax levy is at an historically low level but homeowners burdened with large property tax bills (most of which goes to school districts) are reluctant to support even a modest increase in County property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the County's short term fiscal outlook is also threatened by the end of the federal stimulus and reductions in State Aid; and

**WHEREAS**, it is apparent that the County of Suffolk must consider fundamental changes in its approach to fiscal policy to meet the grave challenges before it; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of a bi-partisan commission charged with analyzing the County's current financial situation are making recommendations relative to spending and tax policies would help create the conditions for change; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Budget Advisory Commission is hereby established to study the County's revenue and expenditure policies and to make recommendations as to how those policies should be changed to ensure the fiscal stability of County government and the overall economic health of Suffolk County; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the Commission may consider and recommend any policy option including, but not limited to, the elimination or reduction of programs/functions, personnel reductions, revenue enhancements or reductions; and be it further

**3rd RESOLVED**, that the Commission's findings will be advisory in nature; and be it further

**4th RESOLVED**, that the Commission shall consist of eight (8) members, with the Suffolk County Executive, Suffolk County Legislature, County Treasurer, and County Comptroller appointing two (2) member each; and be it further

**5th**           **RESOLVED**, that the members of the Commission shall elect a Chairperson from its membership prior to its first meeting, and that the Commission shall hold its first meeting no later than thirty (30) days after the oaths of office of all members have been filed, which meeting shall be convened by the Chairperson of the Commission; and be it further

**6th**           **RESOLVED**, that the appointing authorities may not select two persons belonging to the same political party; and be it further

**7th**           **RESOLVED**, that each appointee must have at least five years experience in public budgeting, finance or public policy; and be it further

**8th**           **RESOLVED**, that no person employed by the County of Suffolk maybe appointed to the Commission; and be it further

**9th**           **RESOLVED**, that the members of said Commission shall serve without compensation and shall serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities; and be it further

**10th**          **RESOLVED**, that the Commission shall hold regular meetings, keep a record of all its proceedings, and determine the rules of its own proceedings with special meetings to be called by the Chairperson upon his or her own initiative or upon receipt of a written request therefore signed by at least five (5) members of the Commission. Written notice of the time and place of such special meetings shall be given by the secretary to each member at least four (4) days before the date fixed by the notice for such special meeting; and be it further

**11th**          **RESOLVED**, that five (5) members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum to transact the business of the Commission at both regular and special meetings; and be it further

**12th**          **RESOLVED**, that clerical services involving the month-to-month operation of this Commission, as well as supplies and postage as necessary, will be provided by the staff of the Legislative Office of Budget Review and the Legislative Clerk's Office; and be it further

**13th**          **RESOLVED**, that the Commission may submit requests to the County Executive and/or the County Legislature for approval for the provision of secretarial services, travel expenses, or retention of consultants to assist the Commission with such endeavors, said total expenditures not to exceed Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) per fiscal year; and be it further

**14th**          **RESOLVED**, that the Commission may conduct such informal hearings and meetings at any place or places within the County of Suffolk for the purpose of obtaining necessary information or other data to assist it in the proper performance of its duties and functions as it deems necessary; and be it further

**15th**          **RESOLVED**, that the Chairperson may delegate to any member of the Commission the power and authority to conduct such hearings and meetings; and be it further

**16th**          **RESOLVED**, that the Commission shall cooperate with the Legislative Committees of the County Legislature and make available to each Committee, upon request, any records and other data it may accumulate or obtain; and be it further

**17th**           **RESOLVED**, that this Commission shall submit a written report of its findings and determinations together with its recommendations for action, if any, to each member of the County Legislature and the County Executive no later than one year subsequent to the effective date of this Resolution for consideration, review, and appropriate action, if necessary, by the entire County Legislature; and be it further

**18th**           **RESOLVED**, that the Commission shall expire and the terms of office of its members terminate 30 days subsequent to the submission of its written report, at which time the Commission shall deposit all the records of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

**19th**           **RESOLVED**, that this study shall not be performed by any outside consultant or consulting firm unless explicit approval and authorization for such consultant or consulting firm is granted pursuant to a duly enacted resolution of the County Legislature; and be it further

**20th**           **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: **\*\*NOT ADOPTED 6/22/2010\*\***

SUFFOLK COUNTY  
County Legislature  
RIVERHEAD, NY



*This is to Certify That I, TIM LAUBE, Clerk of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office, and which was duly adopted by the County Legislature of said County on June 22, 2010 and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk.*

  
Clerk of the Legislature

Intro. Res. 1608 Res. No. 639

June 22, 2010

**Motion:**

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Losquadro  
 Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Vilorio-Fisher, Barraga,  
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

**Co-Sponsors:**

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Losquadro  
 Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Vilorio-Fisher, Barraga,  
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

**Second:**

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Losquadro  
 Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Vilorio-Fisher, Barraga,  
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

LD	Legislator	Yes	No	Abs	NP	R
1	Edward P. ROMAINE	/				
2	Jay H. SCHNEIDERMAN	/				
3	Kate M. BROWNING	/				
4	Thomas MURATORE	/				
6	Daniel P. LOSQUADRO	/				
7	Jack EDDINGTON		/			
9	Ricardo MONTANO	/				
10	Thomas CILMI		/			
11	Thomas F. BARRAGA		/			
12	John M. KENNEDY, JR.	/				
13	Lynne C. NOWICK	/				
14	Wayne R. HORSLEY		/			
15	DuWayne GREGORY		/			
16	Steven H. STERN	/				
17	Lou D'AMARO		/			
18	Jon COOPER				/	
5	Vivian VILORIA-FISHER, D.P.O.		/			
8	William J. LINDSAY, P.O.	/				
<b>Totals</b>		9	8	-	1	-

MOTION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approve
	Table: _____
	Send To Committee _____
	Table Subject To Call _____
	Lay On The Table _____
	Discharge _____
	Take Out of Order _____
	Reconsider _____
	Waive Rule _____
	Override Veto _____
	Close _____
	Recess _____
APPROVED _____	FAILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No Motion _____	No Second _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED
ADOPTED _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT ADOPTED

*Tim Laube*

Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature

Roll Call  Voice Vote \_\_\_\_\_