

Introduced by Legislators Romaine, Muratore and Schneiderman

**RESOLUTION NO. 689 -2011, TO ESTABLISH A TICK AND VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES TASK FORCE IN SUFFOLK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, a portion of the population of Suffolk County is suffering and even with effective preventative and precautionary measures, will continue to suffer from a number of tick and vector-borne diseases; some patients decline and become disabled, wheelchair bound or bedridden, and occasionally are placed in nursing homes; and

**WHEREAS**, the suffering from these diseases is seen to range from mild arthralgia to years of complete physical and neurological disability, loss of hearing, blindness and sometimes death; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is estimated to be responsible for approximately 40% of deaths from tick-borne diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, patients are misdiagnosed with arthritis, Lupus, Multiple Sclerosis, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and other debilitating diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, "Lyme" patients are often stigmatized as a result of the spectrum of emotional symptoms and cognitive dysfunction that often occur; and

**WHEREAS**, ticks, including but not limited to the dog tick, the black-legged tick or deer tick, and the lone star tick, are the most common carriers of vector-borne diseases; mosquitoes are vectors of a plethora of diseases, and other insects in Suffolk County may also be vectors of disease; and

**WHEREAS**, ticks are second only to mosquitoes as vectors of human disease, both infectious and toxic; from the perspective of disease transmission to humans, the essential characteristic of ticks and mosquitoes is their need to ingest a blood meal. Not picky in their eating habits, ticks take their requisite blood meal from all classes of vertebrate (e.g., mammals, reptiles, birds), with the exception of fish; and

**WHEREAS**, since ticks carry numerous pathogens such as bacteria, spirochetes, Rickettsia, protozoa, viruses, nematodes, and toxins, a single tick bite has the ability of transmitting multiple diseases, including but not limited to Lyme disease and other infectious diseases including but not limited to Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis, Bartonellosis, relapsing fever, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Colorado tick fever, Mycoplasma, tularemia, tick paralysis, Q fever, and several viruses. In addition, the toxins and other proteins in tick saliva alone can produce secondary infections as well as allergic reactions; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of ticks carrying these diseases is skyrocketing, posing serious public health and safety risks for Suffolk County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, not only can tick and vector-borne diseases be incorrectly diagnosed as other conditions, they can also occur concurrently with other conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a dearth of testing for many of the diseases which have been identified as those that can be transmitted by a tick or other arthropod bite; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Suffolk currently has a surveillance and control program for mosquitoes to reduce the incidents of West Nile Disease and Eastern Equine Encephalitis cases; but with the exception of the four-poster feeder system in Shelter Island and Fire Island, the issue of tick infestation is not addressed in Suffolk County; and

**WHEREAS**, the formation of a task force is necessary to review these problems and make recommendations for appropriate action by the County Legislature, the Department of Health Services, and the County Executive; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force is hereby created to study the spread of tick and vector-borne related diseases, and to develop a comprehensive needs assessment given the County's approach to this public health and safety issue; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall consist of the following members:

1. the Commissioner of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services shall designate a representative knowledgeable in the area of tick control and tick-related illnesses, who will serve as Chair;
2. the County Executive, or his designee;
3. the Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature, or his designee;
4. the Regional Director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, or his/ her designee;
5. the Chair of the Shelter Island Deer and Tick Committee, or his/her designee;
6. a representative from Brookhaven National Laboratory, knowledgeable in the area of tick and vector control and tick and other vector-related illnesses;
7. a representative from Cornell Cooperative Extension;
8. a representative from the Suffolk County Medical Society/Suffolk Academy of Medicine;
9. a representative from the Suffolk County Pediatric Society;
10. a representative from the Suffolk County Psychological Association;
11. a representative from the Professional Nursing Association of Suffolk County (PNASC);
12. a representative from the Homeopathic Physicians in New York State;
13. a representative from the Empire State Lyme Disease Association, Inc.;
14. a representative from the New York State Veterinary Medical Society;

and be it further

**3rd RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force 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 Chair of the Committee for the purposes of organization; and be it further

**4th**           **RESOLVED**, that the members of the Suffolk County Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force shall serve without compensation and shall serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities; and be it further

**5th**           **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force shall meet at least six times, keep a record of all its proceedings, and determine the rules of its own proceedings with special meetings to be called by the Chair upon his/her own initiative or upon receipt of a written request therefore signed by at least three members of the Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force. Written notice of the time and place of such special meetings shall be given by the Chair to each member at least four days before the date fixed by the notice for such special meeting; and be it further

**6th**           **RESOLVED**, that 8 members of the Suffolk County Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force shall constitute a quorum to transact the business of the Task Force at both regular and special meetings; and be it further

**7th**           **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force may submit requests to the County Executive and/or County Legislature for approval for the provision of secretarial services, travel expenses, or retention of consultants to assist the Task Force with such endeavors, said total expenditures not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) per fiscal year, which services shall be subject to Legislative approval; and be it further

**8th**           **RESOLVED**, that clerical services involving month-to-month operation of this Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force, as well as supplies and postages as necessary, will be provided by the staff of the County Department of Health Services; and be if further

**9th**           **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force 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 in the proper performance of its duties and functions as it deems necessary, and the Task Force shall hold at least one public hearing before approving or rejecting any proposal; and be it further

**10th**          **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force may delegate to any member of the Task Force, the power and authority to conduct such hearings and meetings; and be it further

**11th**          **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force shall cooperate with the Legislative Committee of the County Legislature and make available to each Committee's use, upon request, any records and other data it may accumulate or obtain; and be it further

**12th**          **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force shall submit a written report of its findings and determinations together with its recommendations for action to each member of the County Legislature, the Commissioner of the Department of Health Services, 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

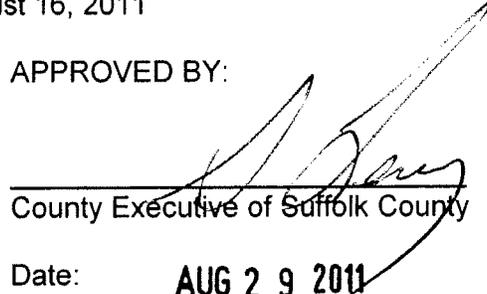
**13th**          **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force shall expire, and the terms of office of its members shall terminate as of December 1, 2012, at

which time the Suffolk County Tick and Vector-Borne Diseases Task Force shall deposit all records of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

**12th**            **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.

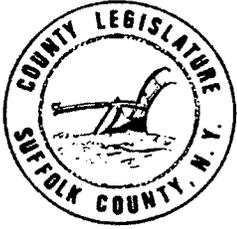
DATED: August 16, 2011

APPROVED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date:            **AUG 29 2011**

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 August 16, 2011 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.*

*Tim Laube*

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Clerk of the Legislature

Intro. Res.

1628

Res. No.

689

August 16, 2011

**Motion:**

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

**Co-Sponsors:**

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

**Second:**

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Anker  
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  | Sarah S. ANKER                |     |    |     |    |   |  |
| 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.      |     |    |     |    |   |  |
|    | Totals                        | 18  |    |     |    |   |  |

**MOTION**

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 No Motion \_\_\_\_\_ No Second \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION DECLARED**

ADOPTED  
 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT ADOPTED

*Tim Laube*

Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature

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