

**STRICKEN AS OF 10/29/2014**  
**AMENDED COPY AS OF 6/9/2014**

Intro. Res. No. 1390-2014  
Introduced by Legislator Trotta

Laid on Table 4/29/2014

**RESOLUTION NO. -2014, ADOPTING LOCAL LAW  
NO. -2014, A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO EXPAND THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR APPOINTED OFFICERS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, there was duly presented and introduced to this County Legislature at a meeting held on April 29, 2014, a proposed local law entitled, "**A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO EXPAND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTED OFFICERS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT**"; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that said local law be enacted in form as follows:

**LOCAL LAW NO. -2014, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO  
EXPAND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTED OFFICERS  
OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF  
SUFFOLK**, as follows:

**Section 1. Legislative Intent.**

This Legislature hereby finds and determines that the County of Suffolk maintains a well-trained, professional police force to protect the health and safety of the County's 1.5 million residents.

This Legislature also finds that the County of Suffolk devotes substantial resources to support the Police Department and its operations.

This Legislature finds that the officers in the highest ranks of the Police Department are routinely required to make difficult decisions on complex policing, staffing, budgetary, and public policy issues.

This Legislature believes that every reasonable effort should be made to recruit and promote the best and brightest law enforcement officials into the leadership of the Police Department to ensure that the Department is ready to meet the challenges it will face in the years ahead.

This Legislature finds that Suffolk County participates in a tuition reimbursement plan for police officers seeking continuing education related to their employment.

This Legislature also finds that the contractual agreement between the Superior Officers and Suffolk County provides members with an additional education benefit for completing a

minimum of 120 college credits or obtaining a Bachelor's degree. Current Superior Officers receive this benefit whether or not they have actually completed any college credits.

This Legislature also determines that the highest ranking officers in the Police Department should also obtain high-level clearance from the federal government to ensure that lower-level officers, who have this clearance and are working on projects requiring same, can communicate with their superiors about sensitive details associated with their assignments.

This Legislature concludes that establishing minimum higher education, professional and security qualifications for the highest ranking appointed officers in the Police Department will further strengthen and professionalize the Department's operations.

Therefore, the purpose of this law is to establish minimum educational, professional and security requirements to persons serving in the upper echelon on the Suffolk County Police Department.

**Section 2. Amendments.**

Article XIII of the SUFFOLK COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE is hereby amended as follows:

**ARTICLE XIII  
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE**

\* \* \* \*

**§ A13-13. Educational Standards for Officers of Appointed Ranks.**

Any Suffolk County Police Officer holding the rank of Deputy Inspector or higher shall have obtained, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

**§ A13-14. Background Requirements for Officers of Appointed Ranks.**

- A. Any officer considered for the rank of Deputy Inspector or higher must possess a reputation for integrity, the ability to write clear reports and the ability to be fair and objective.
- B. No officer may hold the rank of Deputy Inspector or higher if a complaint of excessive force, sexual harassment, discrimination, conduct unbecoming of an officer or dishonesty against the officer has been substantiated by a Police Department agency, the Suffolk County Police Internal Affairs Bureau, a tribunal charged with the responsibility of investigating such complaints or by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- C. Persons holding the positions of Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Chief of Department or Chief of Detectives must, within 180 days of the effective date of this law, successfully complete a background check by the Federal Bureau of Investigations and be approved for Top Secret clearance.

**Section 3. Applicability.**

- A. This law shall apply to all officers appointed to a position with the rank of Deputy Inspector or higher on or after the effective date of this law.
- B. The education requirements set forth in § A13-13 shall not apply to officers holding such a rank prior to the effective date of this law, nor to any promotions such officers may obtain on or after the effective date of this law.
- C. The requirements set forth in §A13-14 (B) and (C) shall apply to all officers holding the rank of Deputy Inspector or higher on or after the effective date of this law.

**Section 4. Severability.**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

**Section 5. SEQRA Determination.**

This Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21), and/or (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. 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 law.

**Section 6. Effective Date.**

This law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

\_\_\_ Underlining denotes addition of new language

DATED:

APPROVED BY:

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

Date: