

**RESOLUTION NO. 401 -2015, DIRECTING THE SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING "SAFE SPOTS" TO PROTECT RESIDENTS CONDUCTING PRIVATE SALES TRANSACTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Suffolk is charged with protecting the safety and welfare of County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, people are increasingly engaging in online private party sales to sell or purchase a variety of items including high value items like jewelry, electronics, furniture and vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, these private party sales often require the buyer and seller, who are strangers to each other, to meet; and

**WHEREAS**, criminals are now using these online sales as opportunities to find victims to rob, assault, or even kill; and

**WHEREAS**, these individuals pose as buyers, lure genuine sellers with valuable items to meeting locations, then attack the sellers as the transaction occurs. Attacks may range from simple assault to armed robbery; and

**WHEREAS**, earlier this year, an elderly Georgia couple was murdered by criminals posing as a party to a private sales transaction arranged using Craigslist. A pregnant woman also was viciously attacked in March while answering an ad from Craigslist; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to these crimes, some localities are establishing public safe spaces where transactions can be completed under the monitoring of law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County should examine the feasibility of creating 3 to 4 locations that could be safely used by members of the public engaging in private sales; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Police Department is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to study the feasibility of establishing "safe spots" for the transaction of private sales by members of the public; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the feasibility study shall include an examination of the equipment and personnel costs associated with establishing and monitoring "safe spots" in the County, any liability issues that may arise from the creation of such spots, as well as the potential benefits such "safe spots" would provide to the public; and be it further

**3rd RESOLVED**, that the Police Department may request assistance from the Department of Law to address the legal issues associated with creating safe spots; and be it further

**4th**            **RESOLVED**, that a written report shall be submitted to the County Executive and each member of the County Legislature containing the Department's findings and determination, together with its recommendations for action, within one hundred twenty (120) days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

**5th**            **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 12, 2015

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: May 28, 2015