

RESOLUTION NO. 570 -2015, DEVELOPING A WELLNESS PROGRAM FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, the United States is experiencing an increase in the incidence of chronic diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease and lung conditions, that can be caused by unhealthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, inactivity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, frequent alcohol consumption and other poor health habits cause chronic illness and higher healthcare costs at increasingly earlier ages; and

WHEREAS, almost half of all large employers offer wellness programs to encourage employees to engage in healthy habits, chronic condition management and tobacco cessation; and

WHEREAS, wellness programs reduce absenteeism caused by illness, improve productivity, and save employers an average of \$150 to \$300 in healthcare costs annually per participating employee; and

WHEREAS, employer wellness programs can also reduce employees' out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures and insurance premiums; and

WHEREAS, studies show that wellness programs produce \$3 in healthcare savings for every \$1 invested by employers; and

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk employs over 9,000 men and women to provide the public with necessary services; and

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk initiated a wellness program (the "Ship Shape" program) as a pilot program several years ago, but that program was discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the County should develop a new wellness program to improve the health of its employees and thereby reduce the costs associated with providing health insurance; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the a Wellness Program Panel ("Panel") is hereby established for the purpose of developing a wellness program to improve the health of County employees; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Panel shall be comprised of the following nine (9) members:

1. The Commissioner of the Department of Health Services, or his or her designee, who shall serve as chair of the Panel;
2. The Chairperson of the Health Committee of the County Legislature, or his or her designee;
3. The Chairman of the Economic Development Committee of the County Legislature, or his or her designee;

4. 2 representatives of the fitness industry, with one member selected by the County Legislature and one member selected by the County Executive;
5. 2 representatives of the local agricultural industry, with one member selected by the County Legislature and one member selected by the County Executive; and
6. 2 representatives of the nutrition industry, with one member selected by the County Legislature and one member selected by the County Executive;

and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the Panel 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 chairman of the Panel, for the purpose of organization and the appointment of a vice chairperson and a secretary; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that the members of said Panel shall serve without compensation and shall serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that the Panel 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 therefor signed by at least three (3) members of the Panel. 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

6th **RESOLVED**, that five (5) members of the Panel shall constitute a quorum to transact the business of the Panel at both regular and special meetings; and be it further

7th **RESOLVED**, that the wellness program developed by the Panel shall include screenings to identify health risks, preventive interventions, and health promotion activities for employee participants; and be it further

8th **RESOLVED**, that the Panel shall present the proposed wellness program in a written report to the County Executive and each member of the County Legislature within one hundred eighty (180) days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

9th **RESOLVED**, that the wellness program shall be implemented following its approval by the Legislature via a duly authorized resolution; and be it further

10th **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: June 16, 2015

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: June 29, 2015