

**RESOLUTION NO. 109 -2016, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING
AN UPDATE TO AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, agriculture is central to Suffolk County's identity and critical to our quality of life and local economy; and

WHEREAS, over the past 50 years the County of Suffolk has made an extraordinary effort to preserve farmland and farming in our County and that effort has received national recognition; and

WHEREAS, this Legislature created a task force in 2003 to develop an agricultural environment management policy and program to promote the County's agricultural industry while protecting groundwater and surface waters; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 the task force submitted their final report to the County Legislature, "A Strategy to Develop and Implement the Suffolk Agricultural Stewardship Program"; thereafter, the Legislature enacted legislation which authorized Cornell Cooperative Extension to develop and coordinate this program with funding provided through the County's Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program; and

WHEREAS, since 2004 the stewardship program has helped reduce nutrient and pesticide loading into ground and surface waters and provided research and guidance to Suffolk County farmers; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Stewardship Program should be updated; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Department of Economic Development and Planning is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to complete an update to the 2004 report "A Strategy to Develop and Implement the Suffolk Agricultural Stewardship Program" and to submit this update to the County Executive and each member of this Legislature within 60 days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

2nd 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: March 1, 2016

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: March 4, 2016