

**RESOLUTION NO. -2016, ESTABLISHING A VIBRANT
COMMUNITIES POLICY IN SUFFOLK COUNTY**

WHEREAS, prior to World War II, Suffolk's downtowns were stable, vibrant communities, being the hub of commerce, social gatherings and many fine residences; and

WHEREAS, the end of the War brought large scale suburban development and decentralized commercial areas, and as development spread, people left downtown areas, often leaving behind shuttered buildings, decay and blight; and

WHEREAS, the County and Long Island region have experienced the loss of young people to other parts of the state, region and country because of problems related to housing, transportation, jobs and cost of living; and

WHEREAS, the County Legislature recently adopted a Comprehensive Master Plan that focused on attracting young people to the region by building vibrant, transit oriented downtowns that provide housing near transit, enhancing economic competitiveness by improving access to employment centers, educational opportunities and commercial markets, and assisting communities in transforming their once neglected downtowns into dynamic centers of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan highlighted the importance of attracting young people back to the region as the key to building an innovation economy in Suffolk County that will result in the creation of high paying jobs; and

WHEREAS, the County has aided the development and strengthening of downtown areas with capital investments through the Workforce Housing, Downtown Revitalization and Jumpstart programs; and

WHEREAS, focusing investment in transit oriented downtowns will provide environmental benefits by removing cars from our roadways and reducing traffic overall; and

WHEREAS, the County leases space in various buildings in Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, locating County offices in transit oriented downtowns will help achieve the goals identified in the Master Plan by serving as anchors in reinvigorated downtowns and also provide quality work environments for employees who may take advantage of surrounding opportunities in commerce, housing and culture; and

WHEREAS, prioritizing county leases in downtown areas will more effectively leverage already existing county investments in housing and infrastructure; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the County of Suffolk that in every case where the County searches for space for County agency functions due to (i) the need for new space, (ii) the need for space because of the expiration of existing leased space, or (iii) when savings to the taxpayers can be achieved by consolidation of County space, the Space Management Steering Committee, as defined and empowered to act as set forth in § A22-2 of the SUFFOLK COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE shall, in the first instance, consider and endeavor to secure space through lease or purchase at transit oriented

development areas. For purposes of this resolution, transit oriented development shall be construed to mean a space available proximate to a main public transportation hub, such as a Long Island Railroad train station, that features a walkable downtown with varied housing options, public spaces, and retail space all in close proximity to each other; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the policy established by this resolution will be implemented in a manner consistent with § A40-8 of the SUFFOLK COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE; and be it further

3rd 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) 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:

APPROVED BY:

County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: