

**STRICKEN AS OF 1/26/2017**

Intro. Res. No. 1765-2016  
Introduced by Legislator Cilmi

Laid on Table 7/26/2016

**RESOLUTION NO. -2017, ADOPTING LOCAL LAW  
NO. -2017, A CHARTER LAW TO ESTABLISH A MULTI-  
YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, there was duly presented and introduced to this County Legislature at a meeting held on July 26, 2016, a proposed local law entitled, "**A CHARTER LAW TO ESTABLISH A MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN**"; now, therefore be it

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

**LOCAL LAW NO. -2017, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**A CHARTER LAW TO ESTABLISH A MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN**

**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 Suffolk County's operating budget continues to be under pressure due to increased expenditures and insufficient revenue.

This Legislature determines that diminished sales and property tax revenues, rising pension and health insurance costs, shrinking federal and state aid and increasing demands for County services have combined to create a chronic, structural budget imbalance in Suffolk County.

This Legislature further determines that Suffolk County has drawn down reserves and utilized one-shot revenues to close annual operating budget shortfalls but these actions have not resolved the County's long-term structural imbalance.

This Legislature finds that strategic long-term budget planning is essential to fiscal discipline and sound decision making.

This Legislature finds and determines that multi-year budget planning can help policy-makers assess the long-term financial implications of current policies, identify structural budget deficits and develop solutions to achieve ongoing budget balance as well as restore a positive fund balance.

This Legislature also finds that many municipal finance experts, including the New York State Comptroller and the Government Financial Officers Association ("GFOA"), recommend that local governments adopt a multi-year budget plan that extends at least three years beyond the current budget period.

Therefore, the purpose of this law is to require that the County Executive submit, on an annual basis, a multi-year financial plan that approximates future expenditures, revenues, fund balances and offers budget deficit mitigation measures.

## **Section 2. Amendments.**

Article IV of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER is hereby amended by the addition of a new Section C4-35, to read as follows:

### **§ C4-35. Multi-year Financial Plan.**

- A. By December 31<sup>st</sup> each year, the County Executive shall submit a five (5) year financial plan which outlines revenues, expenditures and fund balance estimates for each of the major funds (General Fund and Police District Fund). This financial plan will cover the period beginning with the then current fiscal year, and continuing through the subsequent fiscal year for which an operating budget has been adopted and the following three (3) fiscal years.
- B. The financial plan submitted by the County Executive shall:
1. Provide a reasonable baseline estimate of the largest expenditures and revenues and the largest estimated changes in expenditures and revenues for each of the major funds for each year of the plan, taking into account and summarizing any mitigation measures currently underway or prescribed in developing the baseline.
  2. Identify and describe in reasonable detail all actions necessary and appropriate to ensure, with respect to each of the major funds for each fiscal year of the plan, that any projected baseline shortfall is closed and that aggregate operating expenses for such fiscal year shall not exceed funds available (revenue plus fund balance).
  3. Provide that each of the major funds of the County will be balanced in each year of the plan.
  4. Identify and describe anticipated threats or obstacles to the success of the financial plan.
  5. Identify and describe contingencies and opportunities which may be available or which may occur during the plan period to enhance the probability of the success of the financial plan.
- C. The financial plan submitted by the County Executive will provide the following information:
1. Revenue estimates shall include, but not be limited to, revenue from sales taxes, property taxes, miscellaneous revenues, anticipated federal and state aid, and anticipated asset sales. The impact of any tax increases or reductions and anticipated changes in federal or state aid based on new legislation shall be included in revenue estimates.
  2. Expenditure estimates shall include, but not be limited to, personal service appropriations, debt service appropriations, the out-year costs of labor contracts,

planned reductions or increases to departmental budgets and other miscellaneous appropriations.

D. The Legislative Budget Review Office will review the multi-year financial plan and issue a report with its exceptions to the plan no later than April 30<sup>th</sup> each year. The Presiding Office of the County Legislature may extend this deadline on the request of the Legislative Budget Review Office but this extension shall not exceed thirty (30) days.

### **Section 3. Repeal.**

I. Paragraphs (G), (H) and (I) of § C4-6 of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER are hereby repealed in their entirety.

II. Paragraphs (B), (C), (D) and (E) of § C4-5 of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER are hereby repealed in their entirety.

### **Section 4. Applicability.**

The County Executive will be required to submit the first multi-year financial plan called for in this law by December 31, 2016 and shall continue to do so every year thereafter. The Legislative Budget Review Office will be required to review the multi-year financial plan and issue a report with its exceptions by April 30, 2017 and shall continue to do so every year thereafter.

### **Section 5. 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 6. 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 7. Effective Date.**

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

[ ] Brackets denote deletion of existing language.  
\_\_\_ Underlining denotes addition of new language.

DATED:

APPROVED BY:

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

Date: