

**RESOLUTION NO. 750 -2016, ESTABLISHING THE 5 & 5  
EDUCATION AND EFFECTIVENESS WORKING GROUP**

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Trade Commission estimates that Americans use in excess of 90 billion plastic bags, sacs and wraps each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the recovery and reuse rate for plastic bags is a mere 7.1%, just a small fraction of the total; and

**WHEREAS**, 96.6 billion bags end up in landfills or incinerators, as litter or in local waters every year; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans consume more than ten billion paper bags each year and fourteen million trees are cut down yearly for the manufacturing of paper; the nation's paper industry generates more than twelve million tons of solid waste every year; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation has been introduced in this Legislature which would require retail stores to impose a 5 cent fee on all carryout bags they provide to consumers; it is hoped that this law will substantially reduce the use of plastic and paper carryout bags; and

**WHEREAS**, in anticipation of the enactment of the carryout bag legislation, a Public Education Working Group should be established to initiate a public education and outreach campaign to promote awareness of the local law; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that a Public Education Working Group ("Working Group") is hereby established to conduct outreach and education efforts to promote awareness of the local law; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the Working Group shall be comprised of the following members:

- 1) The Presiding Officer, or his or her designee;
- 2) The County Executive, or his or her designee;
- 3) The Chairperson of the Health Committee, or his or her designee;
- 4) The Commissioner of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, or his or her designee;
- 5) A representative from the food industry, to be selected by the County Legislature;
- 6) A representative from a non-profit environmental advocacy organization, to be selected by the County Legislature; and
- 7) A representative from the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union;

and be it further

**3rd**           **RESOLVED**, that the Working Group shall be charged with creating brochures and flyers for retailers to distribute to their customers, with the aim of promoting environmental stewardship by encouraging customers to bring their own bags when they shop; and be it further

**4th**           **RESOLVED**, that the Working Group shall establish partnerships with retailers and school districts to promote the benefits of reusable bags; these partnerships may include the development of poster contests for school children and the development of staff training materials for retailers to help educate cashiers and manage the transition; and be it further

**5th**           **RESOLVED**, that the Working Group shall work to develop content and resources for the Suffolk County website including a list of reusable plastic and recycled paper bag vendors to assist retailers with legal compliance; and be it further

**6th**           **RESOLVED**, that the Working Group shall work to develop a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet for both retailers and consumers to explain the purpose and goal of the local law; and be it further

**7th**           **RESOLVED**, that the Working Group shall partner with retailers to develop a Best Management Practices (BMP) plan and create resources for retail staff to promote reusable bags and efficient bagging techniques; and be it further

**8th**           **RESOLVED**, that the Working Group shall analyze the impact of the local law on material recycling facilities, waterways, roadside litter and reusable bag use both before and after implementation of the local law; and be it further

**9th**           **RESOLVED**, that three (3) years following implementation of this local law, the Working Group shall provide a report to the Health Committee of the County Legislature which includes the following: an analysis of any unintended consequences of the local law; tracking of compliance and analysis of the impact of the local law on recycling facilities and landfills; a report on the general effectiveness of the local law in reducing the use of single-use carryout bags in the County and increasing the use of reusable carryout bags; and an analysis of the waste and litter reduction benefits of this local law, including, where practicable, the amount of single-use plastic bags in the waste stream; and be it further

**10th**          **RESOLVED**, that, for three (3) years following the submission of their initial report to the Health Committee of the County Legislature, the Working Group shall provide an annual updated report which shall detail any significant changes that occurred in the previous year which would change the data provided in the original report submitted pursuant to the 9<sup>th</sup> RESOLVED clause of this Resolution; and be it further

**11th**          **RESOLVED**, that the Working Group shall expire on December 31, 2024; and be it further

**12th**          **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: September 7, 2016

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: September 23, 2016