

**PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION NO. 17 -2010, AUTHORIZING
RETENTION OF COUNSEL TO ASSIST THE SPECIAL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REVIEWING THE OPERATIONS
OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, it came to light several months ago that beginning in 2006, the Suffolk County Ethics Commission authorized the County Executive to file the State's Financial Disclosure Statement in lieu of the County's official financial disclosure statement; and

WHEREAS, the County's statement is more stringent and requires more disclosure than the State form; and

WHEREAS, other County officers may have received approval from the Ethics Commission to file a financial disclosure statement that varies from the County form; and

WHEREAS, it has also been reported that two ethics matters which arose from complaints filed by the County Executive's Office have been pending before the Ethics Commission for two years or more with no resolution; and

WHEREAS, these reported incidents have raised concerns that the County's ethics and disclosure laws are not being applied in a consistent fashion; and

WHEREAS, while much of the Ethics Commission's work must necessarily be performed in a confidential manner and it is the desire of the County Legislature to insulate the Commission from the political process to the maximum extent possible, the County Legislature must also exercise its oversight authority to ensure that the Ethics Commission is discharging its responsibilities in an appropriate and even-handed manner; and

WHEREAS, the Presiding Officer has established a Special Legislative Committee to review the operations and procedures of the Ethics Commission and to recommend any necessary corrective legislation; and

WHEREAS, after interviewing five (5) attorneys/law firms, the Special Committee recommends that Patrick Kevin Brosnahan, Jr., 73 Main Street, Babylon, NY 11702 be retained to serve as special counsel to the committee; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that Patrick Kevin Brosnahan, Jr., 73 Main Street, Babylon, NY 11702 is hereby retained to serve as Counsel to the Special Legislative Committee reviewing the operations of the Suffolk County Ethics Commission; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that this Legislature hereby authorizes and directs the Presiding Officer to execute an agreement for such representation as may be necessary to carry out this resolution in an amount not to exceed \$23,500 of County Legislative funds; said amount to be paid from the Budget Review Office Fees-for-Services: Non- Employees (001-LEG-1025-4560 appropriation); and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the Budget Review Office and the Presiding Officer shall review and process for payment vouchers forwarded by the attorney retained for the purpose specified in this resolution; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that all payments to the retained attorney shall be paid at a rate of \$250/hour.

DATED:

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-15(A) OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER