

PROCEDURAL MOTION NO. 7 -2015, DIRECTING THE OFFICE OF BUDGET REVIEW TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF USING VIDEO CONFERENCING DURING LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk is geographically vast, measuring 86 miles in length from the Nassau boundary to Montauk; and

WHEREAS, residents throughout the County need reasonable access to their County government; and

WHEREAS, general meetings of the Legislature alternate between auditoriums located in Hauppauge and Riverhead, with committee meetings held exclusively at the Hauppauge auditorium; and

WHEREAS, presently, some east end residents must drive over two hours in each direction if they want to make public comments during committee meetings; this is a substantial burden on those residents; and

WHEREAS, the use of video conferencing at meetings is allowed in certain situations under the Open Meetings Law, codified in NEW YORK PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW § 103; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature should study the feasibility of allowing residents to testify from either of the County's legislative auditoriums during committee and general meetings through the use of video conferencing technology; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Office of Legislative Budget Review is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to examine the feasibility of establishing video conferencing capability at the County's Legislative auditoriums; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the study shall include an analysis of the equipment necessary to allow exchange of audio and video between auditoriums, the number of employees required to operate the equipment and provide the public with access to the facilities, and all other costs associated with such a program; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the Office of Legislative Budget Review shall issue a written report detailing its findings and determinations, together with its recommendations for action, if any, to each member of the County Legislature within 90 days; and be it further

4th 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: May 12, 2015

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY PURSUANT TO § C2-15(A) OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY
CHARTER