

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Steve Levy  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 6, 2011

Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay and  
Members of the Suffolk County Legislature  
William H. Rogers Legislative Building  
725 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Smithtown, New York 11787

**RE: RESOLUTION NO. 1238 – 2010, INCREASING COUNTY BUS FARE FOR  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUNDAY BUS SERVICE.**

Dear Presiding Officer Lindsay and Members of the Legislature:

I am returning herein **Resolution No. 1238 – 2010; INCREASING COUNTY BUS FARE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUNDAY BUS SERVICE**; vetoed in its entirety.

I am a strong believer in Sunday bus service, but not by hurting our riders through a large fare increase. The vast majority of our public transportation users are riding buses out of necessity, not by choice, and to impose upon them a 33% increase in their daily fares during one of the toughest economic periods is problematic.

Proponents of the bus fare increase have argued that the ridership has overwhelmingly advocated for increasing bus fares for Sunday bus service. However, when the public was able to make their voices heard on the issue, it was under a different proposal which called for increasing bus fares in order to provide Sunday bus service on all Suffolk County bus routes, furthermore, of those testifying, a large number were opposed to the increase. This legislation does not provide Sunday bus service on all routes, but it does raise the bus fares by 33% on all routes. This will seem like a bait and switch to the riders who said they would accept the hardship if it meant they received Sunday bus service -- only to find out their fares have been increased but they will not have Sunday bus service available on their route.

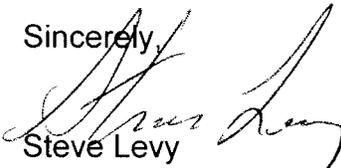
It is still unclear exactly how many Sunday bus routes would be created if bus fares were to be increased by 33% -- and the end result may be that as little as 10 - 15% of the bus routes receive the benefit of Sunday bus service while the remainder of the ridership will be rendered worse off because they will have less money for food and milk and still have no Sunday bus service. It is likely that bus fares would have to be nearly

doubled in order to provide for full service on all routes, including handicapped accessible service as required by law – and that is an increase that would create too great a hardship on the ridership.

In an age where public transportation riders of many systems, such as the LIRR, have experienced regular, dramatic fare increases coupled with decreases in service, our public transportation system have remained consistently affordable. I am proud of not having raised fares on our riders throughout my years in office.

I remain committed to establishing Sunday bus service, but in a manner that is financially responsible to our riders and to our taxpayers, and I ask the supporters if this legislation to join me with their voices to lobby in Albany and Washington for Suffolk's fair share of public transportation allocations. Suffolk has historically received far less in federal and state aid for public transportation than neighboring suburban counties and requires a larger subsidy from our taxpayers to support the system. This imbalance needs to change.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain my veto of this resolution.

Sincerely,  
  
Steve Levy  
County Executive of Suffolk County

cc: All Suffolk County Legislators  
Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature  
Christine Malafi, Esq., Suffolk County Attorney  
Lynne A. Bizzarro, Esq., Chief Deputy County Attorney  
Christopher Kent, Chief Deputy County Executive  
Edward Dumas, Chief Deputy County Executive  
Connie Corso, Deputy County Executive for Finance and Management  
Ken Crannell, Deputy County Executive  
Ben Zwirn  
Eric Naughton, Budget Director  
Dan Aug, Director of Communications  
Mark Smith, Deputy Director of Communications

**RESOLUTION NO. 1238 -2010, INCREASING COUNTY BUS  
FARE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUNDAY BUS  
SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County provides bus service Monday through Saturday; and

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County has not raised bus fares in many years and the current rates are significantly below average rates in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, testimony at public hearings held over the past year confirm that the ridership of Suffolk County buses want, and are willing to pay, a slightly increased full fare rate for Sunday bus service; and

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County should increase the full fare rate to \$2.00 and use all funds generated from such increase for the implementation of a Sunday bus service; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that the Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to develop a pilot program for Sunday bus service ("pilot program"), to be funded by a fifty cent (\$0.50) fare increase taking into consideration the most travelled bus routes and economically challenged areas in the County; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, shall develop the pilot program by January 31, 2011; and be it further

**3rd RESOLVED**, that the Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, is directed to hold two public hearings on the pilot program to increase the full rate bus fare from \$1.50 to \$2.00 in order to fund the Sunday pilot program, said hearings to be completed by March 15, 2011; and be it further

**4th RESOLVED**, that the full fare rate for bus service shall be increased from \$1.50 to \$2.00 on May 1, 2011; and be it further

**5th RESOLVED**, that the Sunday bus service pilot program shall be implemented by June 15, 2011; and be it further

**6th 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: December 21, 2010

APPROVED BY:

**VETOED**  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: 1-6-11  
JAN 06 2011

Intro. Res.

2097

Res. No.

1238

December 21, 2010

**Motion:**

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Losquadro  
Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Vilorio-Fisher, Barraga,  
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

**Co-Sponsors:**

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Losquadro  
Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Vilorio-Fisher, Barraga,  
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

**Second:**

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Losquadro  
Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Vilorio-Fisher, Barraga,  
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

LD	Legislator	Yes	No	Abs	NP	R
1	Edward P. ROMAINE	/				
2	Jay H. SCHNEIDERMAN	/				
3	Kate M. BROWNING	/				
4	Thomas MURATORE	/				
6	Daniel P. LOSQUADRO		/			
7	Jack EDDINGTON		/			
9	Ricardo MONTANO		/			
10	Thomas CILMI		/			
11	Thomas F. BARRAGA		/			
12	John M. KENNEDY, JR.		/			
13	Lynne C. NOWICK	/				
14	Wayne R. HORSLEY	/				
15	DuWayne GREGORY	/				
16	Steven H. STERN	/				
17	Lou D'AMARO		/			
18	Jon COOPER	/				
5	Vivian VILORIA-FISHER, D.P.O.	/				
8	William J. LINDSAY, P.O.	/				
	Totals	11	7			

MOTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve
Table: _____
Send To Committee _____
Table Subject To Call _____
Lay On The Table _____
Discharge _____
Take Out of Order _____
Reconsider _____
Waive Rule _____
Override Veto _____
Close _____
Recess _____
APPROVED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAILED _____
No Motion _____ No Second _____

<b>RESOLUTION DECLARED</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED
NOT ADOPTED _____

*Tim Laube*

Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature

Roll Call  Voice Vote \_\_\_\_\_