

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**Steve Stern
Legislator 16th District**

Committees

Chairman – Veterans & Seniors
Vice-Chair – Public Works & Transportation
Vice-Chair- Economic Development, Higher
Education & Energy
Member- Parks & Recreation



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**TO: Members of the Sitings of Memorials and Symbols and Naming of
County Facilities, Parks and Roads Committee:**

**Hon. Ricardo Montano, or Robert Martinez, his designee
Paulette Bartunek, Human Rights
Joseph Darrow, Minority Leader designee
Steve Tricarico, County Executive designee
Ralph Borkowski, DPW designee
Sarah Lansdale, or Peter Lambert, her designee, Planning Dept.
All interested parties**

FROM: LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN, CHAIRMAN

DATE: July 14, 2011

Please be advised that the next meeting of the Sitings of Memorials and Symbols and Naming of County Facilities, Parks and Roads Committee will be held on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. in the Rose Caracappa Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York.

AGENDA:

Tabled Resolutions:

IR 1473-2011 - To Rename the Intersection of CR 16 and
CR 93 as "Officer Robert Helmke Place" (Kennedy)

Any other relevant discussion items.

Adjournment

AMENDED COPY AS OF 6/29/2011

Intro. Res. No. 1473-2011
Introduced by Legislator Kennedy

Laid on Table 5/10/2011

**RESOLUTION NO. -2011, TO RENAME THE
INTERSECTION OF CR 16 AND CR 93 AS "OFFICER ROBERT
HELMKE PLACE"**

WHEREAS, Robert Helmke was a Police Officer in the New York City Police Department for 12 years before his untimely death in July 2007; and

WHEREAS, prior to his service as an officer with the NYPD, Helmke served the United States as a Sergeant in the Air Force for seven years and as a Customs Inspector with Customs and Immigration Federal Law Enforcement for five years; and

WHEREAS, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks targeted occupants of the World Trade Center in New York City, a group that included many Suffolk County residents, and proximately caused the death of at least 178 Suffolk County residents, and further negatively impacted thousands of Suffolk County residents who work in, regularly travel to or have relatives and friends living in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Officer Helmke worked to ensure security at the World Trade Center site and morgue through March 2002; and

WHEREAS, Officer Helmke's exposure to toxins at Ground Zero directly caused the cancer which claimed his life; and

WHEREAS, his death was thus incurred in service to the residents of Suffolk County, among others, who were killed as a result of or otherwise affected by the September 11, 2001 terrorists attacks and the following rescue and recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his extraordinary sacrifice, Officer Helmke was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by New York City Police Commissioner Kelly and Mayor Bloomberg, as well as the Valor in Service Medal by the New York State Shields; and

WHEREAS, Officer Helmke lived in Hauppauge with his family prior to his passing, and inspired by his service, Office Helmke's wife and children, also Hauppauge residents, are active members of the 9/11 Responders Remembered Committee, which is undertaking the creation of the nation's first 9/11 Responders Park and Monument, which will be located in Suffolk County, to honor the memory of Helmke and his fellow 9/11 responders; and

WHEREAS, the intersection to be named in Officer Helmke's honor is located adjacent to the site of the in-development 9/11 Responders Remembered Park and Monument; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Smithtown is taking appropriate actions to name the Town-owned portion of this intersection (Gibbs Pond Road) in honor of Officer Helmke in cooperation with the County; and

WHEREAS, it is an honor and a privilege for Suffolk County to honor Officer Robert Helmke for his selfless acts of heroism in protecting the community and serving the United States; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, the intersection of CR 16 and CR 93 is hereby renamed the “Officer Robert Helmke Place” to honor a person who was dedicated to public service and sacrificed his health to protect the public; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Suffolk County Department of Public Works is hereby authorized, empowered and directed, pursuant to Section 8-2(W) of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER, to take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate this naming and dedication; and be it further

3rd 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:

APPROVED BY:

County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: