

# ***SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE***

## ***Veterans Committee***

***Steve Stern, Chairman***

**Legislator 16<sup>th</sup> District**

**Committees**

**Chairman –Veterans**

**Vice-Chair – Economic Development**

**Member- Budget & Finance**

**Member-Seniors & Consumer Affairs**

**Member- Parks & Recreation**

**Member-Public Works, Transportation &  
Energy**



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**TO: MEMBER OF THE VETERANS COMMITTEE**

**Legislator Sarah Anker, Vice-Chair**

**Legislator Monica Martinez**

**Legislator Tom Barraga**

**Legislator Lou D'Amaro**

**Legislator Leslie Kennedy**

**FROM: Legislator Steve Stern, Chairman**

**DATE: Wednesday, June 7, 2017**

**RE: Veterans Committee Agenda**

Please be advised that the next meeting of the Veterans Committee will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 9:30 am in the Rose Y. Caracappa Auditorium, William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, NY 11788

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Correspondence

3. Public Portion

4. Presentations:

Tom Ronayne, Director, Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency

Joseph Pecorella, CPA Chief Auditor and Jennifer Fasano, CPA, Senior Auditor

To Present a report to the Veterans Committee of the County Legislature, pursuant to Local Law 32-2016, A Local Law to strengthen requirements for nonprofit veterans organizations soliciting donations in Suffolk County.

Robert Novotny, Director, Vets Lives Matter, to discuss programs for Veterans.

5. Tabled Resolutions: None

6. Introductory Resolutions: None

7. Procedural Motions: None

8. Adjournment



**SUFFOLK COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER  
AUDIT DIVISION**

**John M. Kennedy, Jr.  
Comptroller**

Registration of Nonprofit Veterans Organizations  
For the Period  
November 4, 2016 through May 31, 2017

**Report No. 2017-04  
Date Issued: June 1, 2017**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER**

**John M. Kennedy, Jr.**  
Comptroller

**Louis A. Necroto, CPA**  
Chief Deputy Comptroller

**Frank Bayer, CPA**  
Executive Director of Auditing Services

**Audit Staff:**

Joseph S. Pecorella, CPA, Chief Auditor  
Jennifer Fasano, CPA, Senior Auditor

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**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

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June 1, 2017

Steve Stern, Chairman  
Veterans and Seniors Committee  
William H. Rogers Building  
725 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Smithtown, NY 11787

Dear Legislator Stern:

In accordance with Suffolk County Local Law 32-2016, on November 4, 2016 the Suffolk County Department of Audit & Control (Audit & Control) assumed the responsibility of registering all nonprofit veterans organizations (agencies) soliciting funds and contributions in Suffolk County. Audit and Control reviewed all documentation submitted by these agencies with their application for registration statements from November 4, 2016 through May 31, 2017, and provided a registration certificate to the agencies which completed all of the registration requirements. The documentation provided by the agencies was not audited, and the analyses provided are solely for informational purposes.

The purpose of our analyses was to review documentation submitted by the agencies in order to provide the Veterans and Seniors Committee of the County Legislature with a report summarizing the information submitted by each registered nonprofit veterans organization pursuant to §353-24.1 of the Suffolk County Code. These analyses were prepared using the information provided by the agencies and are not intended to be a presentation in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The objectives of these analyses included, but were not limited to: reviewing all documentation submitted by the agencies with their application for registration statements in order to determine whether all registration requirements were satisfied; issuing a registration certificate which has a registration number and expiration date to the agencies which completed all of the registration requirements; identifying agencies with expired registration certificates and which are prohibited from soliciting funds or contributions in Suffolk County.

We conducted our analyses in order to satisfactorily complete our objectives and to comply with the requirements of Suffolk County Local Law 32-2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Office of the County Comptroller  
Division of Auditing Services

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## **BACKGROUND**

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In accordance with §353-21 of the Suffolk County Code, any nonprofit veterans organization that solicits funds or contributions from the public or that has funds or contributions solicited on its behalf within Suffolk County is required to file an application for registration statement with Audit and Control. The application for registration statement, which contains all of the information detailed in §353-21 B. of the Suffolk County Code, must be refiled and updated every year for as long as the agency is engaged in solicitation activities in Suffolk County.

Audit and Control is responsible for reviewing all documentation submitted by the agency with its application for registration statement to determine whether all registration requirements have been satisfied. The Comptroller will provide each agency which has completed all of the registration requirements with a registration certificate which has a registration number and expiration date. In addition, Audit and Control will publish on its webpage the following information regarding each registered nonprofit veterans organization for the previous year: total revenue, including donations, contributions, grants and investments; total funds expended to assist veterans and their families; amount and percentage of funds raised that were expended to support veterans' programs in Suffolk County; amount of funds that remain undistributed; amount of monies paid to professional fundraisers and solicitors; total administrative expenses for the agency and the percentage of total administrative expenses to total agency expenses.

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## **SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY**

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- Sent recertification letters and an application for registration statement to all agencies which had a registration certificate that expired or was due to expire in the immediate future.
- Sent letters and an application for registration statement to any agency which informed Audit and Control that it intended to solicit funds or contributions from the public or that it was going to have funds or contributions solicited on its behalf within Suffolk County.
- Reviewed all documentation submitted by the agencies with their application for registration statements in order to determine whether all registration requirements were satisfied.
- Issued a registration certificate which has a registration number and expiration date to all agencies which completed all of the registration requirements.
- Identified agencies with expired registration certificates and which are prohibited from soliciting funds or contributions in Suffolk County.
- Published on Audit & Control's webpage the following information regarding each registered nonprofit veterans organization for the previous year: total revenue, including donations, contributions, grants and investments; total funds expended to assist veterans and their families; amount and percentage of funds raised that were expended to support veterans' programs in Suffolk County; amount of funds that remain undistributed; amount of monies paid to professional fundraisers and solicitors; total administrative expenses for the agency and the percentage of total administrative expenses to total agency expenses.



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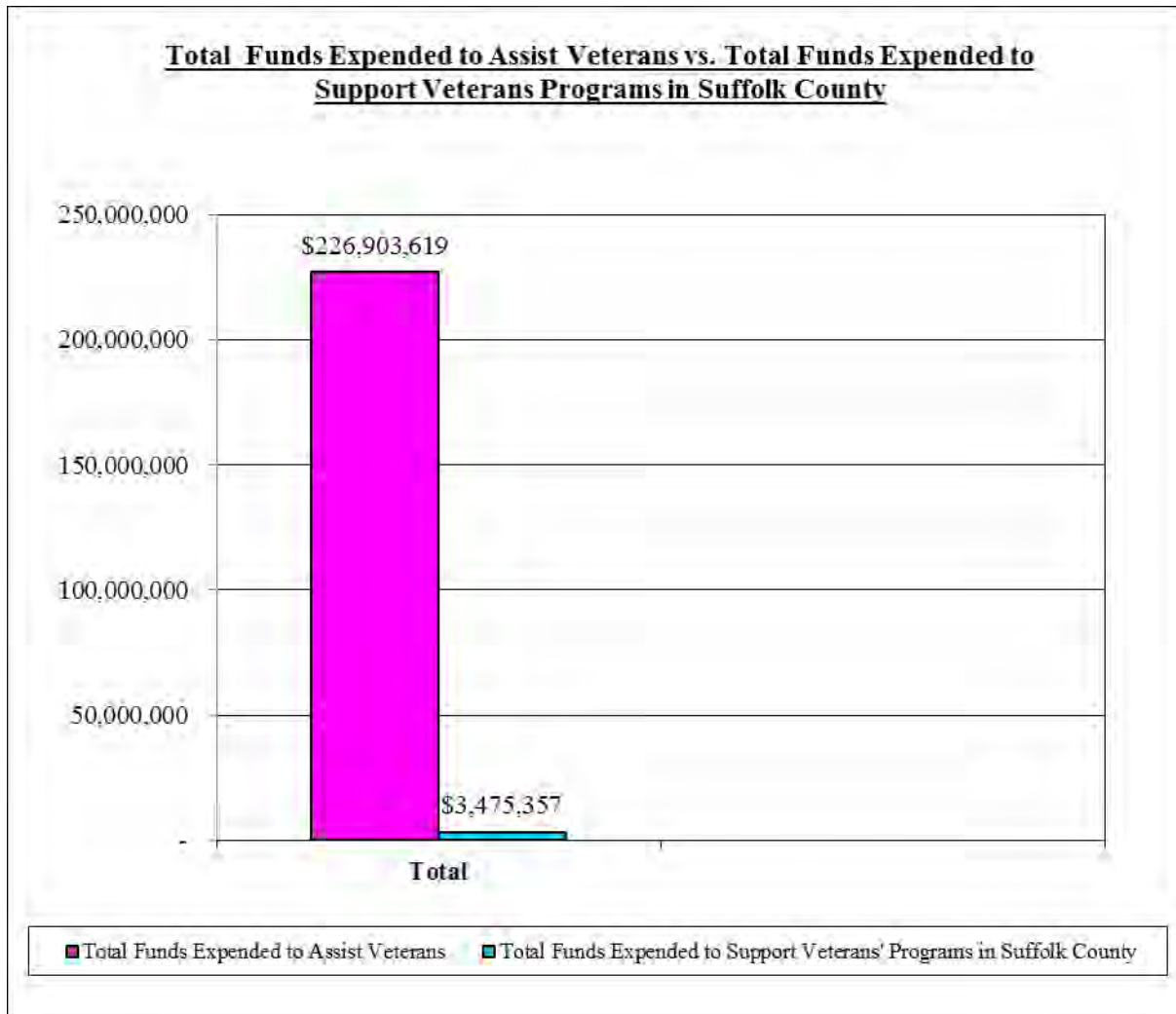
## RESULTS OF ANALYSES

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**Audit and Control issued fifteen registration certificates from November 4, 2016 through May 31, 2017 to agencies which completed all of the registration requirements (Schedule 1).** These agencies must refile an application for registration statement with Audit & Control every year for as long as the agencies are engaged in solicitation activities in Suffolk County.

**Our analysis of the documentation provided by the fifteen agencies which were issued registration certificates revealed that a relatively small portion of the total funds expended by the agencies to assist veterans were expended to support veterans programs in Suffolk County.** As illustrated in Chart 1 below, of the \$226,903,619 that was reported to be expended to assist veterans and their families in the previous year, only \$3,475,357 was reported to be attributed to supporting veterans programs in Suffolk County.

**Chart 1**



**Our analysis revealed that one of the fifteen (7%) agencies paid a professional fundraiser in the previous year (Schedule 1).**

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**Audit and Control identified five agencies with expired registration certificates and which are prohibited from soliciting funds or contributions in Suffolk County (Schedule 2).** Section 353-23 of the Suffolk County Code imposes civil penalties for any agency which violates any of the provisions contained in Article III. Registration of Nonprofit Veterans Organizations.

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## **SCHEDULES**

Schedule 1

Nonprofit Veterans Agencies Registered with Comptroller's Office  
For the Period November 4, 2016 through May 31, 2017

Nonprofit Veterans Agency	Total Revenue including Donations, Contributions, Grants, and Investments in Previous Year	Total Funds Expended to Assist Veterans and Their Families in Previous Year	Amount & Percentage of Funds Raised that were Expended to Support Veterans' Programs in Suffolk County in Previous Year	Amount of Funds that Remain Undistributed	Amount of Monies Paid to Professional Fundraisers and Solicitors in Previous Year	Total Administrative Expenses for the Agency and the Percentage of Total Administrative Expenses to Total Agency Expenses	Certificate Number	Certificate Expiration Date
1 Moonjumpers Charitable Foundation, Inc. 445 Broadhollow Road, Suite 124 Melville, NY 11747	\$37,707	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0 - 0%	2016-01	11/7/17
2 Hope for the Warriors 55 Water Street, 31st Floor New York, NY 10041	\$5,186,536	\$4,544,622	\$5,795 - 0.11%	641,914	\$0	\$324,063 - 6%	2016-02	11/7/17
3 Sell To A Veteran, Inc. 475 Northern Blvd, Suite 24 Great Neck, NY 11021	\$0 - New Agency	\$0 - New Agency	\$0 - New Agency	\$0 - New Agency	\$0 - New Agency	\$0 - New Agency	2016-03	11/21/17
4 Safe and Sound Veterans Foundation 19 Quality Street Oakdale, NY 11769	\$0 - New Agency	\$0 - New Agency	\$0 - New Agency	\$0 - New Agency	\$0 - New Agency	\$0 - New Agency	2016-04	12/8/17
5 General Needs, Ltd. 297 Larkfield Road PO Box 761 East Northport, NY 11731	\$38,555	\$23,492 Boots, Socks, Coats, Hats, Scarves & Gloves	\$17,224 - 73.32% Boots, Socks, Coats, Hats, Scarves & Gloves	\$14,001	\$0	\$1,062 - 4%	2016-05	12/28/17
6 Cow Harbor Warriors, Inc. PO Box 204 Northport, NY 11768	\$119,869	\$113,512	\$69,505 - 58%	\$6,357	\$0	\$4,742 - 4%	2017-01	2/17/18
7 Fairway Foundation, Inc. 1757 Veterans Highway, Suite 12 Islandia, NY 11749	\$248,634 \$22,357 (NY Collected)	\$23,616	\$0	\$22,357 (NY Collected)	\$0	0 - 0%	2017-02	3/13/18
8 Project 9 Line, Inc. 25 Union Avenue Islip, NY 11751	\$74,580	\$33,033 Programs	\$33,033 - 70% Programs	\$27,594	\$0	\$942 - 2%	2017-03	3/24/18
9 Airborne Tri Team, Inc. 112 Rosemont Ave Farmingville, NY 11732	\$49,544	\$35,136 Races, Equipment, Gym Memberships	\$30,772 - 71% Races, Equipment, Gym Memberships	\$6,454	\$0	\$849 - 2%	2017-04	4/12/18
10 United Veterans Beacon House, Inc. 1715 Union Blvd. Bay Shore, NY 11706	\$5,937,486	\$3,434,452	\$3,093,648 - 100%	\$0	\$0	\$456,687 - 8%	2017-05	4/13/18
11 9-1-1 Veterans, Inc. P.O. Box 911 Lindenhurst, NY 11757	\$115,876	\$109,404	\$12,459 - 11%	\$6,472	\$0	\$9,298 - 8%	2017-06	4/18/18
12 America's VetDogs 371 East Jericho Turnpike Smithtown, NY 11787	\$5,291,748	\$5,291,995	\$81,415 - 1.5%	\$0	\$0	\$334,774 - 6%	2017-07	4/20/18
13 Wounded Warrior Project, Inc. 4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300 Jacksonville, FL 32256	\$401,396,696	\$213,072,142	\$29,459 from 2016 Soldier Ride donated to United Veterans Beacon House	\$36,220,262	\$6,709,578	\$19,998,695 - 5%	2017-08	4/27/18
14 Paws of War, Inc. 371 East Jericho Turnpike Smithtown, NY 11787	\$213,550	\$150,215	\$71,047 - 33%	\$63,335	\$0	\$2,945 - .02%	2017-09	4/27/18
15 Make it Count Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 370 West Islip, NY 11795	\$86,884	\$72,000 - Total Agency Expenses are \$148,891	\$31,000 - 21%	\$0	\$0	\$7,000 - 5% Paid by a direct gift from a donor	2017-10	5/23/18

Schedule 2

Nonprofit Veterans Agencies with Expired Registration Certificates  
For the Period November 4, 2016 through May 31, 2017

	Agency Name	Registration Certificate Expiration Date	Recertification Letter Mailed
1	Angels for Warriors 164 Main Street Huntington, NY 11743	8/31/2016	10/25/16 & 2/27/2017
2	Cpl. Christopher G. Scherer Semper Fi Fund, Inc. 12 Madsen Lane East Northport, NY 11731	4/3/2017	3/7/2017
3	Guardians of Rescue 34 East Main Street, Suite 303 Smithtown, NY 11787	4/3/2017	3/7/2017
4	Honor Flight Long Island P.O. Box 1314 Southampton, NY 11968	4/13/2017	3/7/2017
5	Marine Corps Veterans, Long Islnd, NY, Inc. P.O. Box 236 Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776	9/8/2016	10/25/2016