

**PRESS RELEASE FROM  
PRESIDING OFFICER WILLIAM LINDSAY**

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## **Lindsay Bill Will Tighten Controls On Hiring of Consultants by County**

### *PO Wants Greater Transparency on Millions of Dollars Spent to Hire Consultants*

**HAUPPAUGE, NY, AUGUST 4, 2009** – The Suffolk County Legislature today adopted Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay’s bill designed to more carefully regulate the millions of dollars spent annually by Suffolk County to hire consultants for a huge range of services.

“These new rules will increase the public’s confidence that consultant contracts are handled professionally so that taxpayers can be sure they are getting good and services at the best possible price,” said PO Lindsay. “Citizens also have to be certain that there is no favoritism, fraud or corruption in the hiring of consultants and these rules will provide that certainty. Suffolk County spent \$51.3 million last year on consultant contracts and we have to make sure the Legislature goes over those contracts with a fine tooth comb.”

A key provision in the law is the addition of a representative of the Presiding Officer to the committee that reviews Requests for Proposals that are the primary method of hiring consultants. The Presiding Officer will also name a representative to the RFP Waiver Committee; the waiver committee can bypass the usual RFP process for contracts in excess of \$25,000 under certain circumstances. Presiding Officer Lindsay said that including the Legislature representative on the RFP review committee and waiver committee provides an important extra level of scrutiny.

Another key part of the bill empowers the Suffolk County Comptroller to consult with the County Department of Public Works to draw up rules and regulations for the process of hiring consultants. Those rules will be subject to approval of the Suffolk County Legislature. All county departments and agencies that hire a consultant for any purpose will be required to file a Personal Services Procurement checklist. That will insure that all the rules and regulations have been properly followed.

Transparency in the hiring of consultants is critically important, and these new rules will achieve the fairness, openness and economy taxpayers demand and deserve,” said PO Lindsay.

The legislation came about as a result of a report done earlier this year by Suffolk County Comptroller Joseph Sawicki about the county’s procurement policies.