



**DuWAYNE GREGORY**  
Presiding Officer  
Suffolk County Legislature



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**The following is a list of accomplishments  
noted by various County Legislators in 2016**

**Suffolk Legislature Approves \$2.9B Budget**

**HAUPPAGUE, N.Y.** – The Suffolk County Legislature last year adopted a \$2.9-billion county budget that eliminates proposed cuts, restores services and increases sales tax revenue projections for 2016 and 2017.

Budget amendments, which were advanced by the bi-partisan Budget Working Group, restored the Public Health Nursing Bureau and the Tobacco Education and Control Program which had been omitted from the County Executive's proposed fiscal package.

In addition, income eligibility for day care was restored at the 2016 level of 125% for a family of four earning \$30,375 annually, rather than 100% earning \$24,300 annually - as proposed - to be more inclusive of those needing day care services.

In a separate measure, legislators – in a bi-partisan vote – rejected a plan to borrow \$26.7 million for police retirement pay. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory argued against the bonding which would require state approval.

Presiding Officer Gregory said the county is prohibited from bonding for expenses that are part of the operating budget. Therefore, he included the costs for the retirement pay in a deferred salary line in the budget.

# **Presiding Officer Gregory Gives Millennials Voice With Next Generation Advisory Council**

To address what he describes as a gaping hole in representation at the county level, Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory in 2016 formed the Suffolk County Next Generation Advisory Council.

“The voices of the millennial generation are the missing puzzle piece in our plans to build a better Suffolk,” said Presiding Officer Gregory. “They are the ones who will live in the Suffolk that we create, yet they are consistently left out of the planning process despite making up at least 10 percent of the population. The Suffolk County Next Generation Advisory Council will guarantee a voice for the millennial generation in county government and ensure that county officials know where they stand when it comes to projects, policy and planning.”

The Next Generation Advisory Council brings together the county’s top young minds and leaders of their generation to weigh in on and help craft proposals and legislation that directly affects millennials and their future on Long Island. Legislation establishing the council was passed at the legislature’s July 26 general meeting.

The council, aimed at county residents ages 22-35, meets regularly. Interested parties are encouraged to contact their legislator or email [nextgen@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:nextgen@suffolkcountyny.gov).

## **Legislature Expands Video Streaming of Meetings**

The Suffolk County Legislature in 2016 debuted live video streaming of its general meetings at the Riverhead county center, allowing residents to watch the sessions from anywhere with internet access.

The new four-camera system in the center’s legislative auditorium marks an expansion of real-time streaming services in Riverhead, where previously it was possible to provide only an audio feed of meetings.

“Expanding our video streaming services is an important step in making county government transparent and accessible to the people,” said Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, who has been leading the effort to expand video streaming services. “We hope to engage as many residents as possible in the legislative process. By watching the debate among lawmakers, residents get better insight into how decisions evolve.”

Viewers can access the live stream at <http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov> while the Legislature is in session.

# Pages Program Has Successful Year

Twenty-three students headed back to school in the fall with a unique conversation starter after participating in the 2016 Suffolk County Legislature Page Program.

In its second year, the summer's Page Program drew students from a variety of schools and majors. Over the course of 11 weeks, Pages got a behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of local government by working in legislative offices, visiting various county departments and participating in the legislative process.

"These Pages were a bright, enthusiastic bunch who brought a lot of character to the Legislature this summer," said Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory. "Each of the Pages brought something special to the table, and, just as it is in real politics, they had different ideas and interests but worked together to find common ground and ultimately, success. Suffolk County is lucky to have such innovative young leaders. We wish them well in their future endeavors."

## Presiding Officer Gregory, Legis. Lindsay Bring Top Business Minds Together

*'Charting the Course' builds bridge between government, business community*

Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory and his colleagues in June took a major step in their mission to build a stronger bridge between the business community and local government when they hosted "Charting the Course," a free seminar for small business owners.

The daylong seminar, held June 24 at Suffolk County Community College in Selden, drew more than 120 attendees who made business connections and were given an opportunity to speak directly with the people who can help their businesses grow and prosper.

"One of the goals of the seminar was to help small business owners see local government not as an impediment, but as a partner in growth," said Presiding Officer Gregory, who hosted the event. "In the Suffolk County Legislature, we want to work more closely with businesses to maximize private and public sector cooperation, ease some of the regulatory hurdles that new and existing businesses face, support strategic outreach and networking opportunities, and develop programs for worker training. This is how we will help give the next generation the ability to call Long Island home."

"Small business creation today drives future innovation and leads to long-term growth and sustainability," added Suffolk County Legislator William J. Lindsay III, who represents the 8th Legislative District and chairs the legislature's Economic Development Committee. He co-

hosted the event with Presiding Officer Gregory. “However, for far too long, government red tape has stood in the way of business development.

After the panel, nearly 20 other industry leaders facilitated small discussions during breakout sessions on building a pipeline for sales, workforce development, access to financing, and how government can help businesses navigate processes like securing permits and making business plans.

## **\$1.6 MILLION ALLOCATED TO PATCHOGUE VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

*Legislator Rob Calarco Secures Money to Make Improvements to Waverly Ave., New Public Space at Patchogue Lake, and Pedestrian Access Improvements*

With support of the Suffolk County Legislature, Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco has secured over \$1.6 million in Jumpstart Suffolk and Start-Up New York funding for improvements in the Village of Patchogue that will spur economic growth and improve traffic flow and safety. The funds will be used to make infrastructure improvements that support transportation and pedestrian mobility in downtown Patchogue, access to the site of Briarcliffe College and future home of the Blue Point Brewery Co., and a proposed new public space along Patchogue Lake. In addition, money will pay for design of a reconfiguration of Waverly Avenue and safety improvements at Waverly Avenue and Lake Street for emergency vehicles.

“This is a critical project that will allow Patchogue Village to take the next steps in growing its vibrant downtown,” said Calarco. “It is positioned between the prospective new Blue Point Brewery, the New Village development, and the suggested site for a hotel. Once completed we will have greatly improved a prime entrance into the village, created more off-street parking, new transportation services, enhanced recreational services, enhanced recreational areas along Patchogue

## **CALARCO TAKES ACTION ON ILLEGAL MASSAGE PARLORS WORKS WITH SCPD, TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN TO SHUT DOWN BUSINESSES**

Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco, with the Suffolk County Police Department and the Town of Brookhaven, launched a major initiative in 2016 to shut down illegal massage parlors. Residents started calling Deputy Presiding Officer Calarco’s office last fall with complaints about “massage parlors” and “foot spas” opening in various strip malls on the Route 112 corridor in Medford and Patchogue. He immediately engaged the Fifth Precinct, as well as the Town of Brookhaven, to investigate the allegations.

“Once these parlors were popping up so quickly, we knew they were probably operating without a license and were probably not innocent operations,” stated Deputy Presiding Officer Calarco. “We started reporting them one at a time, but after noticing that many of them had the same curtains and advertising posters in the windows, we thought they might be connected.”

Eight establishments were cited for multiple violations, including fire and code issues, and four establishments received condemnation notices. Twelve arrests were made for the practicing massage without a license.

“These are often fronts for illegal prostitution rings and our communities will not tolerate it,” stated Calarco.

## **Superstar Beverage Center in Coram Shut Down Due to Ongoing Criminal Activity**

*Legislator Calarco Joins with Others to Cite End of Blight on Local Community*

**CORAM, N.Y.** – Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco was joined by Suffolk County Police Commissioner Tim Sini, Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine, Brookhaven Town Councilman Michael Loguercio, and Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker to announce the closing of Superstar Beverage Center in Coram. The business has been the site of criminal activity in the area, including loitering, drug use and dealing, and prostitution.

Members of the Coram community contacted local officials concerning the business and a coordinated effort began between civic groups, County, Town, and Police officials to combat the illegal activity. Superstar Beverage Center was cited by Suffolk County Police Commissioner Tim Sini as a contributor to the problem by illegally selling alcohol to minors and to people using EBT Benefit Cards, commonly known as Food Stamps, which is prohibited by law.

The closing of Superstar Beverage Center is part of ongoing effort to combat criminal activity and improve the economy in the Coram area. Over the past several months, Legislator Calarco has joined with Legislator Anker and others to form the Coram Plaza Revitalization Taskforce to focus on those efforts.

“For years, this site has been a nuisance to the community as it has attracted illegal activity that was affecting the quality of life for local residents,” said Legislator Anker. “It is important that we do everything in our power to support the Coram community and its local businesses to ensure that it remains economically viable.”

## **Bellone, DPO Calarco Announce Opioid Lawsuit** *Suit filed vs. 11 pharmaceutical companies citing negligent, misleading practices*

County Executive Steve Bellone and Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco, joined by Legislator Sarah Anker, in 2016 hailed the filing of a lawsuit against 11 opioid pharmaceutical companies who misled doctors and consumers about the addictive properties of the drugs. The bill was co-sponsored by Legislators Anker, Hahn and Spencer.

“Suffolk County is truly facing an opioid epidemic as addiction and misuse of these drugs have troubled many residents in our communities, torn families apart and has senselessly taken away thousands of lives,” said Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone. “We must hold those who have misled and knowingly misinformed our residents.”

“Since these drugs were introduced 20 years ago, we have seen prescriptions skyrocket while being told addiction rates are under 1%,” stated Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco. “Meanwhile opiate-related abuse has increased exponentially – that is not a coincidence. I cannot stand by while these companies lie to consumers and doctors while making billions of dollars in profit off people’s suffering.”

“We have to do everything possible to get the resources we need to provide adequate treatment options for this epidemic that is devastating our families and killing our young people,” stated Legislator William Spencer, MD.

“In filing these actions against opium producers, Suffolk County is not only making a statement, but taking a stand on pharmaceutical companies putting profits before the lives of its patient consumers,” said Legislative Majority Leader Kara Hahn.

“The filing of a lawsuit against 11 opioid pharmaceutical companies is a major step forward in addressing the issue at the very core of the opioid epidemic in Suffolk County,” stated Legislator Sarah Anker.

The lawsuit contends that not only did the companies know that with prolonged use the rate of addiction increases, but that their effectiveness wanes, requiring increases in doses to achieve pain relief. When those prescriptions run out, users turn to illegal street drugs such as heroin in order to meet their needs.

## **Legislator Al Krupski Joins Members of the Agricultural Community in Denouncing Recent Court Ruling On County Farmland Preservation Program**

Legislator Al Krupski joined Suffolk County officials, key members of the agricultural community, food bank representatives and farmland preservation specialists brought attention to the recent court decision which overturned some provisions of Chapter 8 of the Suffolk County Code which allowed for hardship exemptions and special permits for certain structures on preserved farmland.

“There is great diversity in agriculture and not everyone understands what is needed to operate a productive farm or agricultural operation,” said Legislator Krupski. “Agriculture is changing; different farming techniques, new technology and methods are emerging along with the opportunities they present: infrastructure needs may change. We need to adapt to accommodate these changes if we want to preserve agriculture and farming.”

In addition to the September 28, 2016 ruling, a permanent injunction was issued prohibiting the county from granting special permits and hardship exemptions, causing uncertainty and anxiety throughout the agricultural community.

Suffolk County has filed a notice of appeal to overturn the decision and order.

## **Legislative Committee Meetings Scheduled for East End Committees Meet in the County Seat for the First Time in Decades**

The first round of the Suffolk County Legislature's committees scheduled to convene on the East End was held Monday through Thursday during the week beginning May 2, 2016.

After lobbying his colleagues since the beginning of his tenure in the Suffolk County Legislature, and more recently with the support of South Fork Legislator Bridget Fleming and the Legislature's Presiding Officer, DuWayne Gregory, Legislator Al Krupski is gratified an agreement was reached early this year to hold two rounds of committee meetings in the County Seat during 2016 legislative cycle.

"This is a great victory for residents of the East End," said Legislator Krupski. "Previously, some of my constituents would have to travel for 90 minutes and up to 60 miles in one direction to speak for three minutes in the committee setting and it is ever more onerous for some South Fork residents. Holding meetings in Riverside will give constituents living on both the North and South Forks the opportunity for better access to the legislative process."

An additional round of meetings was held in Riverhead for the week of August 29 to September 2, 2016.

## **Legislator Al Krupski Represents District 1 at New York State Sponsored Water Quality Hearing**

Legislator Al Krupski testified at a Public Hearing on Water Quality and Contamination sponsored by the New York State Senate and Assembly Standing Committees on Health and Environmental Conservation held at the Legislative Auditorium in the William H. Rogers Building in Hauppauge.

At the onset of his testimony, Legislator Krupski appealed to members of the committees to better notify stakeholders of such proceedings and requested other organizations which are vitally important to any conversation concerning water quality protection on Long Island be noticed in advance of any future hearings. These entities include the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Long Island Farm Bureau.

"The distance some residents who live in my district would have to travel could prove to be prohibitive, especially for events taking place during daytime business hours, discouraging many from participating," said Legislator Krupski. "Government should do its best to encourage citizen involvement in matters of such local importance."

Calling on New York State to ramp up funding for land preservation and citing his belief that the best way to protect water quality is to preserve open space and farmland, Legislator Krupski later stated “if you limit development, you limit the amount of nitrogen and other contaminants entering our ground and surface waters and to do that effectively in Suffolk County we will need support in the form of funding from New York State.”

## **Middle Island Park Moving Forward!**

The County Legislature approved Introductory Resolution 1757, sponsored by Legislator Sarah Anker. The resolution will authorize the commencement of appraisal steps for a portion of the blighted Kmart property on Middle Country Road in Middle Island.

The appraisal will be of the southern portion of the property, approximately 21 acres, to be used as active parkland. Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine attended the committee to voice his support of the acquisition and his commitment to working with the county to build a community park. Middle Island Civic President Gail Baily and Longwood Youth Sports Association representatives also attended to show their support.

## **Lindsay Calls for Government Consolidation**

*Referendum proposed to shrink Suffolk County Legislature to 13 members*

Suffolk County Legislator Bill Lindsay recently introduced legislation that would give voters, in a 2017 referendum, the chance to consolidate the Suffolk County Legislature from 18 elected members down to just 13. Budgetary woes and countywide fiscal challenges influenced Lindsay’s proposal to shrink the county’s legislative body. The proposal will reduce redundancies, increase transparency, and promote greater government efficiency to better serve Suffolk residents.

As a freshman legislator in 2014, Lindsay sponsored and passed a referendum to finally consolidate the comptroller and treasurer’s office, ending a decades-old debate and eliminating the antiquated system of having duplicative financial officer positions. This proposal has been lauded as a victory for taxpayers, saving over \$1.29 million in hard costs savings and increasing the effectiveness of the comptroller’s office leading to additional soft cost savings and an increase in audit recoveries.

“Upon being elected I have been committed to analyzing our overall operations, determining where we can make adjustments, and consolidating government in the most necessary areas to make government work better for the people,” said Legislator Lindsay.

Suffolk County, which has approximately 1.5 million residents, is the 25th most populous county in the United States. Yet, among the other counties in the top 30, it ranks second in representation only to neighboring Nassau County, which currently has 19 elected legislators.

Lindsay froze his own salary upon being elected, refused a county car and cell phone, moved offices to save money, and twice has fought to end automatic pay increases for all Suffolk County elected officials.

## **Whitehouse Playground Ribbon Cutting Celebrates the Life of Sayville Teacher, Scientist, and Philanthropist**

Suffolk County Legislator Bill Lindsay and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone were on hand to dedicate and officially name the newly constructed Cherry Avenue Handicapped Accessible Playground, the Betty Whitehouse Playground. The 77-foot by 65-foot play structure that includes several slides, ramps, and recreational equipment, sits adjacent to the Baymen Soccer Fields owned by Islip Town.

“It was an honor to join the Whitehouse family to officially open this inclusive playground in West Sayville,” said Legis. Bill Lindsay. “Mrs. Whitehouse was first and foremost a wonderful person who made a tremendous impact on our community as a teacher, scientist, civic leader, and volunteer. This park is emblematic of the impact that she made on the children and students of our area and will be an everlasting tribute to her dedication to advancing the lives of all residents.”

Betty Whitehouse was a polarizing force in the Sayville community as a community leader who feverously volunteered her time to make her community a better place for all.

## **Incarcerated Veterans Receive Second Chance In Suffolk County**

*Sheriff DeMarco, Legislator Lindsay, Judge Toomey, and Vietnam Veterans of America team up to create Veterans Re-Entry Program aimed at reducing recidivism*

An estimated 180,000 veterans are incarcerated each year nationwide, with a significant rate of re-offense according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Now, Suffolk County is making a push to reduce veteran recidivism and provide soldiers with the tools and the resources to appropriately cope with stressors, improve life skills, and attain educational and vocational training.

Suffolk County Sheriff Vincent DeMarco, Suffolk County Legislator Bill Lindsay, Judge John J. Toomey of the Veterans Treatment Court, New York State Senator Tom Croci, and Veteran Mentors from the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 11, have launched an Incarcerated Veterans Re-Entry Initiative at the Suffolk County Correctional Facility. The program will help incarcerated veterans re-enter society with services in place to address some of the underlying causes of their contact with the justice system. Many of the jail’s incarcerated veterans suffer from PTSD and substance abuse issues and have been involved in heavy combat situations.

The Veterans Re-Entry Program will address the re-entry needs of veterans returning to society after a period of incarceration at the Suffolk County Correctional Facility. The program will emphasize substance abuse recovery, coping with stress disorders, improving life skills, family re-unification, and vocational and educational assistance.

“Suffolk County has one the highest veteran populations in the United States and we need to provide better services to meet the needs of our veterans,” said Legislator Lindsay. “Our soldiers come home with very few resources to re-enter civilian life; many begin to self-medicate with drugs or alcohol and wind up in the justice system. Today we are making strides to ensure that our veterans have the resources they need to live, work, and live freely in the home they worked so hard to protect.”

## **Yaphank County Center Master Plan Approved with Bipartisan Support**

*50 Year Vision for County Land Will End Piecemeal Planning of the Past*

**Yaphank, NY** – The Suffolk County Legislature approved the Yaphank County Center Comprehensive Master Plan. The plan was drafted by the Yaphank County Center Planning Committee, which was created by Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) in response to continued pressure to develop the remaining forested properties under County control in Yaphank.

The master plan committee was chaired by Josh Slaughter, Chief of Staff to Legislator Browning. It allows for the use of up to 60 acres for the expansion of County services while preserving 137 acres and prohibiting the future sale of land to private entities.

Starting in the 1940’s Suffolk County began acquiring land in Yaphank in order to provide vital services to County residents. At one point the County owned close to 1000 acres in the area. Currently it is a 683-acre complex consisting of the County Farm, Police Headquarters, Department of Public Works, Board of Elections, Fire Academy, Probation Department and other offices.

“The County has never had a long-term plan for the Yaphank County Center,” stated Legislator Browning. “Whenever there is a need to fill a hole in the County budget, Yaphank has been asked to take on the burden of industrial projects without any forward thinking planning involved. The area simply can’t take anymore without seriously jeopardizing the character of the community or the protection of the Carmans River. It was time for a real plan to be put in place.”

The Yaphank County Center Planning Committee met over the course of six months and concluded that no further sale of land should be allowed. Of the remaining undeveloped 197 acres, the committee concluded 30 acres will be needed for known County needs, and additional 30 acres was set aside for possible services over the next 30-50 years.

“Determining the County’s needs now and into the future was our primary goal,” stated Josh Slaughter, Chair of the Yaphank County Center Planning Committee.

The master plan does allow for leasing or licensing agreements on land set aside for development, so there will be opportunities for the County to pursue revenue generating proposals in the future. Preservation of the land will also require a separate action of the legislature, which will not take place until the 60 acres is developed.

## **County Gets Tough on Illegal ATVs**

### *Browning, Law Enforcement Unveil Law to Seize, Destroy Vehicles*

**Yaphank, NY** – For years Suffolk County officials have struggled with the ability to crack down on illegal All-Terrain Vehicle use both on public lands and residential roadways. The lack of legal places to enjoy ATVs causes many vehicle owners to trespass on public parkland and/or drive illegally throughout local communities.

Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) has passed several laws in recent years to prevent the destruction of our important natural resources and to reduce the dangerous activity on residential streets that puts lives in danger. Last year, Legislator Browning was joined by Suffolk County Police Chief Stuart Cameron, Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office Captain Christopher Brockmeyer and members of the Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council to announce the passage of IR 1969-16, co-sponsored by Legislator Kara Hahn, which was approved unanimously by the Suffolk County Legislature on December 6, 2016. The law reduces the amount of convictions necessary to seize an ATV and now gives law enforcement agencies the authority to destroy the vehicles.

With the passage of IR 1969-16 law enforcement agencies can now seize an ATV after a second conviction within a five-year period. In addition, ATVs will no longer be sold back to the public, and the transfer of ATVs to County agencies must be for public safety purposes. If not transferred, the ATVs will be destroyed.

“This is a growing problem in Suffolk County that needs to be addressed,” said Legislator Browning. “

### *Legislator Fleming Secures Funding for Stormwater Management in Riverside, Cedar Island Lighthouse, and Establishes Transportation Working Group*

Suffolk County’s Second District Legislator Bridget Fleming accomplished a great deal for residents of the South Fork at the November 22, 2016 General Meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature.

One of the victories of the day was the approval of a bond resolution, issuing \$250,000 of the Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program and Land Stewardship Initiatives (WQPRP) Fund to the Riverside Circle Reconstruction Project. This funding will be used for the construction of a system that will reduce nutrient and pathogen loading to the Peconic River.

“I am grateful to my colleagues for their support on this important project. Reducing nutrient loading is critical to the protection of our waterways,” said Legislator Fleming. “This is an important step that we must take to protect our water now and for future generations.”

Fleming has also secured WQPRP funding for two other water quality protection projects in her district, including the replacement of the Eastern Boat Pump-Out Station at the Shinnecock Marina, and funding for Phase 4 of the Lake Agawam Storm Water Remediation Project in the Village of Southampton.

Following shortly after the Riverside Circle vote, the Legislature considered and ultimately approved the appropriation of \$500,000 from the Historic Restoration and Preservation Fund to the Cedar Island Lighthouse in East Hampton. In the early 1970s, the historic lighthouse was damaged by fire, and received only temporary repairs. As a result there are currently several holes in the roof of the structure that are causing it to deteriorate.

The funding appropriated from the Historic Restoration and Preservation Fund will be used for the planning and construction of a new roof.

Also passed was a resolution establishing a working group to maximize the level of transportation services provided by Suffolk County, sponsored by both Second District Legislator Bridget Fleming and Third District Legislator Kate Browning. In early October, the county discontinued 10 Suffolk County Transit bus routes due to budget constraints, 3 of which service Fleming’s district.

Fleming believes the decision to end routes should have been made in consultation with certain knowledgeable and important players, including private companies who operate routes that were cut.

## **Legislator Fleming Reestablishes Tick Control Advisory Committee**

The County Legislature approved legislation sponsored by Second District Legislator Bridget Fleming to reestablish the county Tick Control Advisory Committee (TCAC) to oversee and advise the County’s newly-created Tick Research and Management Program (TSMP). The TCAC was initially constructed by former legislator Jay Schneiderman in 2014.

The reestablishment of the committee comes just a few short months after Legislator Fleming successfully advocated to include funding in the 2017-19 Capital Budget for tick management and control purposes, a new Capital Project (CP 4091) which led to the establishment of the “TSMP”. The 2017-19 Capital Budget is the first Suffolk County Budget to allocate funds specifically for tick management and control purposes.

“Tick-borne illness is a serious threat to the health of Suffolk County residents, and deters locals and tourists alike from enjoying our world class parks and natural resources” stated Fleming. “The goal

of the Tick Surveillance and Management Program is to develop a plan to control the tick population in Suffolk County efficiently and effectively, and to serve as a national model for addressing this public health crisis.”

## **EXECUTIVE STEVE BELLONE SIGNS LEGISLATION TO PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS**

Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming joined County Executive Steve Bellone and a number of her colleagues August 10 for the signing of IR 1571-16, amending the Suffolk County Sanitary Code. The bill is part of the Reclaim Our Water effort to protect Suffolk County’s water bodies from dangerous and harmful nitrogen.

This bill updates the Sanitary Code to allow for the approval of new, high-tech septic systems that prevent nitrogen loading and stop harmful pollution to our water. These advanced wastewater treatment systems have been in the ground for six months, and are nearing provisional approval.

“I want to personally thank all of the members of our Town and Village governments who joined us in this effort. Their input ensured that we are able to preserve our way of life here on the East End by protecting this critical resource without threatening our important open space,” said Legislator Fleming. “When we work together, at all levels of government, we are able to

## **LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN LEADS FIGHT AGAINST DRUG EPIDEMIC IN COUNTY**

*Initiatives to crack down on opiate-like gateway herb and powerful synthetic drug that lead to deadly addiction*

**HUNTINGTON, NY**—Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington, 16<sup>th</sup> LD) increased legislative initiatives to combat the heroin and opioid epidemic that continues to cause death and devastation in our communities continued with passage of legislation to prohibit the sale of Kratom to those under 21.

Kratom has been described as an opiate-like herb from Southeast Asia that can lead to serious health effects when smoked or consumed as a tea-like beverage. These adverse health effects include seizures, hallucinations, and respiratory depression.

Suffolk County has seen a tremendous increase in heroin and opiate addiction that has affected hundreds of families, and strained law enforcement resources. Many believe that Kratom, which is readily available on line and in “head shops” on Long Island, despite an FDA ban on its import in 2014, is a gateway drug to opiate addiction and is addictive in its own right. e.

.Legislator Stern also authored legislation that prohibits the sale and possession of U-47700, a powerful, highly addictive synthetic opioid drug that has been linked to more than 50 deaths. U-47700 was originally developed by the pharmaceutical industry as an alternative to morphine but was never marketed when it was determined to be more than eight times as potent as morphine.

“With the unconscionable absence of action by Federal and State authorities, Suffolk County once again must take the lead in protecting our public health,” Legislator Stern said. “We must do everything in our power to protect our young people from synthetic opioids like U-47700 that we know are deadly and addictive and from gateway drugs like Kratom that may lead to addiction, serious health effects, graduation to heroin and potential death

## **LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN MARKS ‘EFFECTIVE END’ OF VETERANS HOMELESSNESS ON LONG ISLAND**

*Author of the “Housing Our Homeless Heroes Act” joins with Advocates and elected Officials*

**HUNTINGTON, NY** –Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) 16<sup>th</sup> LD, joined with Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano, Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, Tom Ronayne, Director, Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency, Greta Guarton, Long Island Coalition for the Homeless and veterans advocates from HUD and the VA to mark the declaration by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness of the effective end of veterans homelessness on Long Island.

Working with partners in government at the Federal, State and local levels, including the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Housing and Urban

Development (HUD), not-for profit groups including the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless, Concern for Independent Living, United Veterans Beacon House and veterans and their families, this initiative has enabled over 1,000 formerly homeless veterans to have a place to call home.

Legislator Stern authored the “*Housing Our Homeless Heroes Act*,” a landmark legislative initiative that created access to critically needed services, protect veterans and their families from housing discrimination, and transfer tax defaulted properties to not-for-profit organizations to be rehabilitated for safe, affordable housing for veterans and their families and to ensure that our veterans receive needed services.

“As Chairman of the Veterans Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature, and as the author of the ‘*Housing Our Homeless Heroes Act*,’ I am especially honored to mark today’s announcement that working together, across party lines, at all levels of government and with advocates and veterans themselves, Long Island has effectively ended veterans’ homelessness,” Legislator Stern said. “

## **BDS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY**

*Stern's legislation sends clear message that Suffolk will not do business with companies that support or participate in efforts driven by intolerance and anti-Semitism*

**HUNTINGTON, NY**—Legislation introduced by Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) 16<sup>th</sup> LD, to prohibit the County from doing business with any corporation or agency that participates in “Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions” that target Israel, a key ally of the United States and the only democratic nation in the Middle East, was passed unanimously by the Suffolk County Legislature.

“BDS is aimed at undermining the Israeli economy and Israel’s sovereignty and has led to intimidation and intolerance,” Legislator Stern said. “The spread of BDS is not only an attack on our friend and ally, not only on the Jewish people, but on the fundamental principles of our entire nation.”

"This initiative sends a strong and clear message that the people of Suffolk County stand in solidarity with Israel, today and always," Stern said.

# Accomplishments for Legislator Trotta

1. Legislator Rob Trotta introduced legislation to suspend the county's Red Light Camera Program as it has become more about revenue generation than public safety. According to the latest report for the Red Light Safety Program, accidents with injuries increased 100 percent in his district. Legislator Trotta has been inundated with calls from constituents objecting to the fees charged, the location of the cameras and short or inconsistent yellow light duration.
2. During the 2016 legislative session, Legislator Trotta voted not to bond projects more than 200 times. Legislator Trotta has great concern about the financial problems and debt faced by Suffolk County and believes legislators need to take a hard look at how they are financing projects.
3. Legislator Trotta Introduced a Campaign Finance Reform Act to limit campaign contributions from county contractors and public employee unions. Trotta's initiative was a bold and necessary step in the fight to eliminate potential improper influence and the appearance of a "pay to play" culture.

## WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY AND HE IS US

**By: Suffolk County Legislator Tom Barraga**

In 1976, an in-depth analysis of the economic well-being of Long Island and its future was done by Newsday. The paper indicated that there were 750 quasi levels of government on Long Island – Villages, Towns, two Counties, State, Federal, School Districts, Library Districts, Sewer Districts, Fire Districts, Water Districts, Garbage Districts and Special Districts. The paper, at that time, stated that if we on Long Island were to have a real future in terms of economic growth, we would have to dramatically reduce these quasi governments.

Forty years later, the number has increased to over 900. The point is that all of these entities exist because people wanted them, and once they are established, it is difficult, if not impossible, to reduce or get rid of them because every entity has their own advocacy group.

For example, do we need 126 school districts on Long Island; does every hamlet have to have a library; does every hamlet have to have a fire department; does every hamlet have to have their own school district? Tell me, do you want to consolidate your school district with three or four neighboring districts; do you want to close your library and use a library in some other hamlet; do you want to shut down your fire department and depend upon neighboring hamlets for fire protection? I am sure your answer is No, No, No.

The problem on Long Island is that people want all of these services, but they don't want to pay for them. There is no free ride on the bus. If you want the service, you have to pay. In the last several years, Suffolk County, at their level, has frozen general property taxes for five years in a row; has 1300 fewer county employees on the payroll, saving over \$100 million annually; has privatized the Suffolk County Health Centers, saving \$77 million over 5 years; has saved \$300 million by not

having to build and staff a new county jail; has closed the County Nursing Home, saving \$12 million per year.

Even with all of these actions, the County has a three-year deficit, in my judgment, of approximately \$400 million. The most fundamental way we can deal with this deficit is to cut expenses, and cut them dramatically. The bus routes that were recently cut had to be done. More bus routes may have to be deleted in the future, as well as major reductions in the 480 non-mandated programs that we currently fund. These groups are all worthwhile organizations that help people in need, but we can no longer afford them – we are broke.

Suffolk County is **BROKE**– revenues are not covering expenses in Suffolk County, and in lieu of a credit card, the County and many other similar bodies use bonding and the debt associated with it as their escape valve. Eight bus routes have been cut to save approximately \$4 million while impacting 433 people out of an estimated daily ridership of 20,000 riders. One bus route was costing \$82.24 per rider in expense on each \$2.00 fare.

If we are serious about balancing our budget in order to avoid a financial control board and possible bankruptcy, additional cuts must be made by the County. All of these programs exist today because people wanted them. Now that they have them they complain about the cost, but are unwilling to give up anything, especially if it affects them personally.

In the end, we must make very serious fiscal decisions if Suffolk County and its residents are to have a future here that enables them to grow and prosper.

## **LEGISLATOR MCCAFFREY AND PARTNERS HOST NARCAN TRAINING TO SAVE LIVES**

West Babylon, NY: On Thursday, July 14, Legislator Kevin McCaffrey hosted a NARCAN training at the West Babylon Fire Department to combat the opioid epidemic and teach people how to administer the live-saving drug to save the lives of people who overdose.

The training was hosted by Legislator McCaffrey's office in partnership with the West Babylon Fire Department, the Suffolk County Police Department, the West Babylon Main Street Organization, Lindenhurst Community Cares and 7-11. More than 50 people from the community were in attendance.

“We were pleased to see so many people from the community brave the storm we had and show up to better understand the opioid epidemic and how they can save people's lives,” said Legislator McCaffrey. “The event was a success, and we have our partners and the community to thank for that.”

Combating the opioid epidemic has become a major focus for the Suffolk County Legislature and Legislator McCaffrey in particular. The opioid epidemic has risen to the top of Legislator McCaffrey's list of priorities, along with balancing the budget.

“When I was first elected to the Suffolk County Legislature, I said my main focus would be on balancing the budget in Suffolk County,” said McCaffrey. “Now, I am also focusing on the opioid

epidemic in Suffolk County in the hopes that I can save at least one life through my work and these trainings.”

## **LEGISLATOR MCCAFFREY ATTENDS MEETING TO DISCUSS LINDENHURST REVITALIZATION**

At the latest meeting of the Lindenhurst Business Improvement District, Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey (R-Lindenhurst) joined with his colleagues from local government and members of the community to discuss the revitalization of the Village’s downtown area. Those who attended heard an informative presentation by Tritech, a developer that specializes in downtown revitalization efforts here on Long Island.

There is particularly a lot of buzz surrounding the concept of transportation hubs – planned neighborhoods with a close proximity to railroad stations and other access points to public conveyances.

According to some, the Village of Lindenhurst seems like an ideal candidate to bring about its own incarnation of a transportation hub. With its historic downtown area adjacent to the Lindenhurst station of the Long Island Railroad, Tritech explained how their vision for a robust and modern residential apartment complex may be the key to the revitalization that the area craves.

“Revitalization is inherently a multi-faceted endeavor,” said McCaffrey. “Smart planning is essential if we aim to maintain a high quality of life, sustain the economy, and protect the environment. We potentially have the ability to keep our young people here on Long Island and also have a place to work and shop nearby.”

## **Suffolk to Establish Child Fatality Review Team**

The Suffolk County Legislature has voted to establish a 13-member panel to review all childhood fatalities within the County deemed to be unanticipated, suspicious or the direct result of physical trauma.

Under the bill sponsored by the Legislature’s Majority Leader Kara Hahn (D-Setauket) and unanimously approved, the new Child Fatality Review Team will be comprised of medical, child welfare, social service and law enforcement professions who will be charged with examining the facts and circumstances relating to deaths of children under the age of 18 deemed to be either unexplainable or the result of violence, including self-inflicted harm. According to Legislator Hahn, the panel’s focus is on “identifying the underlying causes of a child’s death and what resources, if any, may have prevented that tragic outcome.”

The data reviewed by the Child Fatality Review Team will be stripped of all identifiable information and its records will be confidential. Any reports generated by the team will be submitted to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services upon their completion.

## **Dry Cleaners in Suffolk to Come Clean**

## **On Human/Environmental Impacts of Solvents Used**

*Legislator Hahn passes public information policy that will provide consumers with information on “greenness” and potential hazards associated with dry cleaning chemicals*

**Hauppauge, NY** – Consumers in Suffolk County will soon have a better understanding of the environmental footprint their dry cleaners have after the Legislature approved a Local Law requiring professional garment cleaning establishments to post signage indicating the “greenness” of cleaning methods employed.

Under the bill sponsored by Majority Leader Kara Hahn (D-Setauket), the Suffolk County Department of Health Services will be charged with categorizing dry cleaning chemical solvents. The department will rank each chemical grouping based on both human and environmental impacts and then provide color coded signs to cleaners during annual inspections that are currently required under county code.

The signs given to dry cleaners will indicate the cleaning methods and solvents used by each individual shop and are required to be “visually” posted in the shop’s window and behind the counter to highlight for consumers both human impacts and the environmental effects of the establishment’s chosen approach

“This bill empowers consumers and allows them to make more informed decisions, which in the end is good for all of us,” said Legislator Hahn. “

## **New Suffolk Bill to Help Consumers Avoid Being Taken to the Cleaners by the Term ‘Organic’**

Dry cleaners in Suffolk will soon be prohibited from using the unregulated word “organic” to describe the solvents or methods used in providing their services. Under the bill sponsored by the Legislature’s Majority Leader Kara Hahn (D-Setauket), no professional garment cleaning establishment operating in the county will be allowed to describe its services as “organic” in advertising or signage. Violators will face a \$500 fine for the first offense and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.

The term organic is found in many industries, including dry cleaning, and has come under increased public scrutiny as regulators have not established clear criteria governing the word’s usage in consumer goods and services.

“A consumer chooses an “organic” cleaning method with the belief that this option is better for his or her health and our environment,” said Legislator Hahn. “Without a universally accepted definition of what constitutes organic services, consumers go through the wringer. This law allows consumers to make their decisions based upon subjective standards that, in some cases, can be completely contrary to their intentions.”

## **SUFFOLK’S ECONOMY TO SEE GREEN**

## **THROUGH CREATION OF BLUEWAY TRAIL**

PORT JEFFERSON, NY – New York State officials in 2016 announced Suffolk will be awarded \$60,000 in funding through the Regional Economic Development Council for the creation of a county-wide Blueway Trail.

According to the proposal, during this first phase Suffolk County, in partnership with towns, villages, and paddling organizations, will develop a Blueway Trail plan for the North and South Shores as well as the Peconic Estuary.

The application submitted by the County earlier this year was based upon a recreational water trail plan being developed by Suffolk Legislator Kara Hahn for her north shore district. However, that preliminary plan was expanded by Legislator Hahn and working group members to include the entire County after reviewing the economic benefits and increased tourism that a more comprehensive blueway trail would provide to the region. In June, Legislator Hahn sponsored bipartisan legislation that authorized the County to pursue the State funding to support the project.

“For generations, Long Island has attracted both visitors from across the globe and international acclaim because of its shoreline of world-class beaches. However, as more and more tourists seek-out off-shore recreational activities like canoeing, windsurfing and stand-up water paddling, there isn’t any reason why Suffolk County’s lure should end at the water’s edge,” said Legislator Hahn. “Once complete, this project will help drive new opportunities for regional tourism and serve as a catalyst to the local economy as our residents and those vacationing here discover that Suffolk is amazing both on and off shore.”

## **LESLIE KENNEDY KICKS OFF WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH WITH 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN’S POWER BREAKFAST**

Legislator Leslie Kennedy (R-Nesconset) was immensely proud and honored to host her second annual Women’s Power Breakfast at the Holiday Inn Express in Stony Brook in March of 2016.

The Power Breakfast gathers women from all walks of life to network and speak about the experiences they have faced either as a businesswoman, politician, community activist, or not-for-profit sponsors. Legislator Kennedy was especially proud to be hosting this year’s breakfast during National Women’s History month.

Over 90 distinguished women attended the event, each of whom are interested in making a difference here in Suffolk County. From the political end of the spectrum, Legislator Kennedy was joined by fellow Suffolk County Legislators Kate Browning, Sarah Anker, and Monica Martinez. Other special guests included Town of Brookhaven Councilwoman Valerie Cartright, Town of Huntington Councilwoman Susan Berland, Smithtown Receiver of Taxes Deanna

Varricchio, as well as the keynote speaker Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York: Kathy Hochul.

### **LESLIE KENNEDY WITH JON STEWART PAYS RESPECT TO 9/11 RESPONDERS**

Living in the shadow of the largest city in America, many can relate to the trials and sorrows brought about by the horrendous attack on our nation on September eleventh 2001. As horrible as that day was, while the rest of the world was fleeing the towers, a few brave men and women were running towards the wreckage to save as many lives as they could. Some of them died that day, but many more are perishing now due to the diseases that they contracted from working in the ruins of the towers. It is these men and women whom Legislator Leslie Kennedy paid homage to at the 911 Responders Remembered Park in Nesconset in May.

Leslie Kennedy, along with Comptroller John Kennedy, the 911 Responders Remembered Park Board, and the FealGood Foundation gathered to read the new names to be added to The Wall of Heroes. However, they weren't the only ones to honor these heroes. Jon Stewart, former host of the Daily Show and fervent advocate for 911 responders, read the names of the heroes who are to be added to the wall.

To end the ceremony, John and Leslie Kennedy had the privilege of laying the wreath on the Wall of Heroes. "These men and women selflessly gave their lives to help when our nation needed it most. It is so sad to see people still dying as a result of the efforts they made to save lives that day," said Leslie Kennedy. "I want to thank all the first responders and their families. These families make the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe. I also want to thank Jon Stewart for working tirelessly for the benefit of 911 responders, and I thank him for honoring their memory today."

For more information on this event or on the 911 Responders Remembered Park, please call our office at (631)-854-3735 or log onto Legislator Kennedy's Facebook page at [facebook.com/legislatorlesliekennedy](https://facebook.com/legislatorlesliekennedy).