

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Steve Stern

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN JOINS WITH COUNTY EXECUTIVE STEVE BELLONE TO ANNOUNCE VETERANS TRAFFIC COURT

First in Nation program part of Vital Services for our Veterans



Pictured L-R: County Executive Steve Bellone, Legislator Steve Stern, Tom Ronayne, Director Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency

HUNTINGTON, NY –Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) 16th LD, Chairman of the Veterans Committee, joined with County Executive Steve Bellone, Tom Ronayne, Director of the Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency, Ken Rosenblum, Associate Dean and Retired Director of the Touro Law Center Veterans’ and Servicemembers Law Clinic to announce the establishment of the “first-in the nation” Veterans

Traffic Court to assist our returning servicemen and women, and our veterans in lifting or avoiding license suspensions and to assist in rectifying traffic issues pending before the Suffolk County Traffic and Parking Violations (TPVA). Veterans Docket Day allows honorably discharged or current veterans to participate in a special conference with a prosecutor and helps reduce the potential for criminal court charges.

This program is designed, not as a free pass, but rather to address initial infractions, and also provide access to support services, to assist our veterans in addressing issues they may face during the transition from active duty to civilian life.

“ As Chairman of the Veterans Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature, and as the author of the *‘Housing Our Homeless Heroes Act,’* I applaud County Executive Bellone and the Traffic and Parking Violations Agency for this important ‘first-in-the nation’ initiative to assist our at risk veterans. As they return home, many from multiple deployments, it is vital that we ensure that something as simple as a traffic violation does not lead to unemployment, inability to pay child support and potential homelessness. It must continue to be our solemn obligation to protect those who protected all of us and this program is an important and effective way to provide assistance to our veterans and have a beneficial impact on public safety as well.”