

**RESOLUTION NO. 449 -2013, TO ENSURE ADEQUATE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES TO SUFFOLK COUNTY
RESIDENTS**

WHEREAS, protecting public safety is the most fundamental duty of Suffolk County Government; and

WHEREAS, this Legislature, as the policymaking and appropriating authority in County Government, allocates substantial resources to the Police Department, the District Attorney, the Sheriff and other public safety agencies in order to safeguard Suffolk County residents; and

WHEREAS, certain budgeted positions that become vacant sometimes remain unfilled for long periods of time; and

WHEREAS, certain positions in County Government are so sensitive and vital to public safety that they must be filled immediately if a vacancy does occur; and

WHEREAS, public safety dispatchers and emergency complaint operators are indispensable to public safety; the County simply must have an adequate number of employees to receive distress calls and dispatch police and other emergency responders to assist County residents; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the vital role of Emergency Complaint Officers and Public Safety Dispatchers, 30 of the 154 budgeted positions at the Police Department dispatch center were vacant earlier this year; and

WHEREAS, 911 operators and police dispatchers testified before the Legislature's Public Safety Committee that they were often required to work 16-hour shifts and sometimes were unable to take a restroom break; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive recently authorized hiring more call center employees but additional action must be taken to ensure that current and future vacancies in these positions are filled immediately; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of the Police Department shall notify the Presiding Officer of the County Legislature and the Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, in writing within 30 days, when 10% or more of the budgeted Public Safety Dispatcher or Emergency Complaint Operator positions in the Department are vacant, and explain why the positions are being held open; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that at the time the Police Commissioner provides this notification he or she shall also provide an action plan that details how the Department plans to operate until such time as the vacancies are filled; 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: June 4, 2013

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: June 7, 2013