

STRICKEN AS OF END OF YEAR

Intro. Res. No. 1605-2013
Introduced by Legislator Cilmi

Laid on Table 7/30/2013

**RESOLUTION NO. -2013, ADOPTING LOCAL LAW
NO. -2013, A CHARTER LAW TO ESTABLISH A TWO-
YEAR BUDGET PLANNING PROCESS**

WHEREAS, there was duly presented and introduced to this County Legislature at a meeting held on _____, 2013 a proposed local law entitled, "**A CHARTER LAW TO ESTABLISH A TWO-YEAR BUDGET PLANNING PROCESS**"; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that said local law be enacted in form as follows:

LOCAL LAW NO. -2013, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

**A CHARTER LAW TO ESTABLISH A TWO-YEAR BUDGET
PLANNING PROCESS**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF
SUFFOLK**, as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent.

This Legislature hereby finds and determines that Suffolk County's Operating Budget is under pressure as never before.

This Legislature determines that diminished sales and property tax revenues, rising pension and health insurance costs, shrinking Federal and State Aid and increasing demands for County services have combined to create a chronic, structural budget imbalance in Suffolk County.

This Legislature further determines that since the national economic meltdown in 2008, Suffolk County has drawn down reserves and utilized one-shot revenues to close annual operating budget deficits. These actions have only exacerbated the County's structural deficit.

This Legislature finds that despite reductions in the County workforce and services provided, additional measures are needed to meet ever-increasing mandated expenses.

This Legislature also finds that strategic long-term budget planning is essential to solving the County's current fiscal problems.

This Legislature finds and determines that multi-year budget planning can help policymakers assess the long-term financial implications of current policies, identify structural budget deficits and develop long-term solutions to achieve fiscal stability.

This Legislature also finds that many municipal finance experts, including the New York State Comptroller and the Government Financial Officers Association ("GFOA"), recommend that local governments adopt a multi-year budget plan.

This Legislature also determines that embracing multi-year budget planning is consistent with the current Charter provision that requires the County Executive's Budget Office and the Legislature Office of Budget Review ("BRO") to develop and maintain a multi-year budget model.

Therefore, the purpose of this law is to require that the County Executive, in addition to submitting a proposed operating budget each year, submit to the County Legislature a budget plan that identifies future expenditures, revenues and budget deficit mitigation measures for the subsequent fiscal year.

Section 2. Amendments.

Section C4-6 of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER is hereby amended by the addition of a new paragraph D to read as follows:

C4-6. Submission of proposed budget by County Executive.

* * * *

- D. At the same time the County Executive submits his proposed operating budget, he or she shall also submit a separate budget planning document which outlines revenue and expenditure estimates for the fiscal year subsequent to the ensuing fiscal year.
1. This budget planning document shall, for the fiscal year subsequent to the ensuing fiscal year:
 - a. Provide a reasonable baseline estimate of expenditures and revenues for each of the major funds in the event that no further actions are undertaken by the County affecting the major funds.
 - b. Identify and describe in reasonable detail all actions necessary and appropriate to ensure, with respect to each of the major funds, that any projected baseline deficit is closed and that annual aggregate operating expenses for such fiscal year shall not exceed annual aggregate operating revenues.
 - c. Provide that each of the major funds of the County will be balanced in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
 - d. Identify and describe all reserve and unreserved fund balances that are available to make one-time payments and to offset unforeseen or unusual expenditure increases or reductions in revenue.
 - e. Identify and describe anticipated threats to the success of the financial plan.
 - f. Identify and describe contingencies and opportunities which may be available or which may occur to enhance the probability of the success of the financial plan.
 2. Revenue estimates categories for the fiscal year subsequent to the ensuing fiscal year shall include, but not be limited to, revenue from sales taxes, property taxes, miscellaneous revenues, anticipated federal and state aid, and anticipated asset

sales. The impact of any tax increases or reductions and anticipated changes in federal or state aid based on new legislation shall be included in revenue estimates.

3. Expenditure estimates categories for the plan period shall include, but not be limited to, personal service appropriations, debt service appropriations, the out-year costs of labor contracts, changes in the capital program which will impact debt service, planned reductions or increases to departmental budgets and other miscellaneous appropriations.
4. The budget plan for the plan period shall contain a description and an explanation of all the revenue and expense assumptions as well as a section on each department or agency which explains the impact of any increases or decreases in department spending.
5. The budget plan shall also include specific budget programs or plans to eliminate any identified budget deficit.

* * * *

Section 3. Applicability.

This law shall apply to actions occurring on or after the effective date of this law.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 5. SEQRA Determination.

This Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21), and/or (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. 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 law.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This law shall not take effect until at least sixty (60) days after its adoption, nor until approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the County of Suffolk voting on a proposition for its approval if within sixty (60) days after its adoption there is

filed with the Clerk of the County Legislature a petition protesting against this law in conformity with the provisions of Section 34(4) of the NEW YORK MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW and upon filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

___ Underlining denotes addition of new language.

DATED:

APPROVED BY:

County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: