

**RESOLUTION NO. 689 -2014, ADOPTING LOCAL LAW  
NO. 26 -2014, A CHARTER LAW TO IMPROVE BUDGET AND  
FISCAL COMMUNICATION IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**WHEREAS**, there was duly presented and introduced to this County Legislature at a meeting held on June 3, 2014 a proposed local law entitled, "**A CHARTER LAW TO IMPROVE BUDGET AND FISCAL COMMUNICATION IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT**"; now, therefore be it

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

**LOCAL LAW NO. 26 -2014, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**A CHARTER LAW TO IMPROVE BUDGET AND FISCAL  
COMMUNICATION IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**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 the County of Suffolk is grappling with serious financial challenges, including recurring budget deficits.

This Legislature further finds and determines that, while elected officials are periodically informed of changes in the County's fiscal outlook, there is no set schedule for regular updates on the County's financial standing.

This Legislature finds that the County's finance and budget officers should meet on a quarterly basis to discuss current and potential financial challenges, strategies to address such challenges, and changes to the County's fiscal condition to ensure that all stakeholders are on the same page.

This Legislature also finds that these periodic reports will foster open and honest discussion among the County's elected officials.

This Legislature further finds that the existing Joint Audit Committee, which chooses the independent certified public accountant to audit the County's financial statements, should be given the added responsibility of reviewing the County's fiscal condition and making a report of its findings to the County Legislature.

Therefore, the purpose of this law is to empower and authorize the Joint Audit Committee to periodically review the County's fiscal status and report its findings to the County Legislature.

**Section 2. Amendment.**

Article IV of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER is hereby amended by the addition of a new Section C4-35 which shall read as follows:

**Article IV.  
County Budget and Capital Program**

\* \* \* \*

**§ C4-34. Joint Audit Committee.**

\* \* \* \*

G. The Joint Audit Committee shall meet on a quarterly basis to review the County's fiscal condition, discuss current and/or potential financial challenges the County may face and develop recommendations on how to address those challenges. The Chairperson of the Committee shall, within fifteen (15) days after each meeting, prepare a report summarizing the substance of the Committee's discussion and recommendations, and circulate said report to the members of the Committee. Upon the approval of a report by a majority of the Committee's membership, the Chairperson will distribute the report to each member of the Legislature within thirty (30) days after the subject meeting.

**Section 3. Applicability.**

This law shall apply to all 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 will take effect immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

\_\_\_ Underlining denotes addition of new language.

DATED: September 9, 2014

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: September 24, 2014

After a public hearing duly held on September 22, 2014  
Filed with the Secretary of State on October 23, 2014