

RESOLUTION NO. 835 -2014, ENHANCING OUTREACH AND SERVICE DELIVERY TO HOMELESS VETERANS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

WHEREAS, homelessness is a significant problem among our veterans; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs announced its goal to end homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015; and

WHEREAS, local leadership that marshals federal, State and local resources is critical to ending veterans homelessness; and

WHEREAS, many veterans apply for and receive services from the County Department of Social Services ("DSS"); and

WHEREAS, according to the 2013 report by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, it is critical to provide short-term assistance and connections to long-term supports, such as health care, counseling, education and job training and placement for homeless veterans and those at risk of becoming homeless and their families, in order for them to successfully obtain housing and remain in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency employs officers who by law must be veterans themselves and who understand the challenges faced by their fellow veterans; these officers receive specialized training and certifications that allow them to effectively assist veterans seeking services; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Services Agency should work with the Department of Social Services to ensure that veterans receive all the benefits and services to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, veterans services officers should be assigned to work at the Department of Social Services' centers as necessary to best assist veterans and provide additional access to their specialized training to those veterans seeking DSS assistance; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the County Veterans Services Agency and the Department of Social Services are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to establish a policy whereby veterans services officers will be assigned to work in Social Services centers, as necessary, to best assist veterans seeking housing and other services and to provide additional access to their specialized expertise; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Department of Social Services and the Veterans Services Agency will establish the program to assign veterans services officers to DSS centers within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this resolution; 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: October 7, 2014

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: October 16, 2014