

RESOLUTION NO. 752 -2015, DIRECTING THE SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A HELPING OUR VETERANS (HOV) LANE PROGRAM TO EXPEDITE APPLICATIONS FROM VETERANS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Social Services (DSS) is to provide financial assistance and support services to eligible Suffolk County residents in a cost effective and efficient manner, simultaneously protecting the vulnerable while encouraging their independence and self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, Suffolk County is home to the largest population of veterans in New York State, and has one of the largest veterans' populations of any county in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Army plans to cut its forces by 40,000 over the next two years and there will no doubt be additional cuts throughout the armed services likely resulting in an even greater population of veterans here in Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to provide financial assistance and support services to eligible veterans that have sacrificed and risked so much for this country; and

WHEREAS, a DSS staff member fulfilling this function will need to have experience in navigating multiple DSS programs, in interacting with other County Departments including but not limited to the Veterans Service Agency, Office for the Aging, Health Services, as well as partnering with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and other advocates; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Social Services has indicated that the Department will be able to dedicate one existing Social Services Examiner III (SSE III) position for this purpose; now, therefore be it

1st **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Department of Social Services is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to establish an HOV Lane Program with one existing Social Services Examiner III (SSE III) position dedicated to expediting applications from veterans for financial assistance and support services; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, that the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services is to submit a written report to each member of the County Legislature within one year of the effective date of this resolution containing the Department's evaluation of the HOV Lane Program and its recommendation(s) for further action; and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the Department of Social Services may request assistance from the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency to foster the utilization of the HOV Lane Program and to provide assistance with the written report as needed; and be it further

4th **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: September 9, 2015

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: September 25, 2015