

**RESOLUTION NO. 169 -2019, ENSURING TIMELY
NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES IN EMERGENCY DISPATCH
OPERATOR STAFFING**

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk is responsible for protecting the health and safety of County residents; and

WHEREAS, emergency dispatchers are a critical element of the County's public safety system, serving as an initial point of contact for residents experiencing a medical or fire related crisis or witnessing criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, emergency dispatchers have a high attrition rate due to the stressful nature of the position; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 449-2013 requires the Police Department to notify the Presiding Officer of the Legislature and the chairperson of the Public Safety Committee when 10% or more of the Public Safety Dispatcher or Emergency Complaint Officer positions are vacant; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of Resolution No. 449-2013, concerns about staffing shortages for emergency dispatchers have expanded to include the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services, as retirements compound the difficulties associated with attrition; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that the Legislature can properly oversee and make policy decisions to address the staffing issues for emergency dispatchers, the Public Safety Committee chairperson should be notified each time an emergency dispatcher leaves their unit; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Suffolk County Police Department and the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services are hereby directed to notify the Chair of the Public Safety Committee of the County Legislature each time a Public Safety Dispatcher (I, II, III), Emergency Services Dispatcher (I, II, III) or Emergency Complaint Officer, or any associated Spanish speaking titles retires or otherwise leaves service in the bureau; and be it further

2nd 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)(26) 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 routine or continuing administration and management not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment, 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: March 5, 2019

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Dennis M. Cohen
Chief Deputy County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: March 7, 2019