

**RESOLUTION NO. 745-2021, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO.2-2021, ADOPTING RULES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK TO ALLOW FOR REMOTE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**WHEREAS**, this Legislature adopts Rules of Procedure on an annual basis to govern the operation of the body for the upcoming session; and

**WHEREAS**, occasionally, the rules require updating when an unexpected need arises during the course of the session; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the public must participate in legislative meetings remotely for the foreseeable future, likely into the fall and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, once the public is permitted to physically attend meetings, some individuals may still prefer to participate remotely; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to ensure that all individuals are permitted to be heard by the Legislature, reasonable regulations should be put into place governing the use of video conferencing by the public; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that Rule 8 of the 2021 Rules of the Suffolk County Legislature is hereby amended to read as follows:

**RULE 8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- A.) At the public portion of all regularly scheduled Legislative meetings all persons who have filled out the appropriate speaker's card shall be entitled to speak to the full Legislature for a period not to exceed three (3) minutes. Individuals may participate in the public portion either in person or via videoconference through the videoconferencing platform designated by the Presiding Officer. Remote participation by members of the public shall be limited to meetings held at the Hauppauge auditorium of the Legislature. Persons speaking at the public portion shall be heard in the order in which they signed up to participate. The Presiding Officer will utilize a list based on the date and time of the initial request to speak for all members of the public regardless of how they will be appearing. Individuals participating via videoconference are encouraged to maintain both video and audio feed throughout the period of their participation.
- B.) At any Special Legislative meeting held pursuant to Section A2-6(B) of the SUFFOLK COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, the Presiding Officer shall schedule a public portion not to exceed one (1) hour in duration during which period of time individuals who have filled out an appropriate speaker's card shall be entitled to speak to the full Legislature for a period not to exceed three (3) minutes in the order in which the cards have been signed up to the expiration of the one (1) hour period regardless of whether or not all speakers who have signed a card are able to speak. Individuals may participate in the public portion either in person or via videoconference through the videoconferencing platform designated by the Presiding Officer. Remote participation by

members of the public shall be limited to meetings held at the Hauppauge auditorium of the Legislature. Persons speaking at the public portion shall be heard in the order in which they signed up to participate. The Presiding Officer will utilize a list based on the date and time of the initial request to speak for all members of the public regardless of how they will be appearing. Individuals participating via videoconference are encouraged to maintain both video and audio feed throughout the period of their participation. This one (1) hour limitation for the public portion at a Special Meeting may be extended by a vote of at least a majority of the entire membership of the County Legislature. This one (1) hour period for the public portion at a Special Legislative Meeting may be shortened or terminated by a vote of at least a majority of the entire membership of the County Legislature if no more speakers from the public are in attendance.

- C.) At any meeting of the Legislature the Presiding Officer shall follow the speaker cards in numerical order regardless of the status as a regular speaker or public official. The Presiding Officer shall utilize a list of all individuals who requested to speak in order of the date and time that they initially requested to speak. A State, federal, or local official may speak at any time, if requested by a member of the County Legislature to do so in accordance with Rule 11(C) and Rule 2 (A)(11), except during the public portion.

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- F.) At meetings of legislative standing committees, persons who have filled out the appropriate speaker's card are entitled to speak to the committee for three (3) minutes. Individuals may participate in the public portion either in person or via videoconference through the videoconferencing platform designated by the Presiding Officer. Remote participation by members of the public shall be limited to meetings held at the Hauppauge auditorium of the Legislature. Persons speaking at the public portion shall be heard in the order in which they signed up to participate. The Chairperson will utilize a list based on the date and time of the initial request to speak for all members of the public regardless of how they will be appearing. Individuals participating via videoconference are encouraged to maintain both video and audio feed throughout the period of their participation.

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and be it further

**2nd** **RESOLVED**, that Rule 9 of the 2021 Rules of the Suffolk County Legislature is hereby amended to read as follows:

#### **RULE 9. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A.) Any individual, other than a member of the Legislature, who wishes to speak at a public hearing conducted before the full Legislature, for the purpose of ultimately acting upon legislation which is the subject matter of said public hearing may speak at such public hearing for a period of time not to exceed three (3) minutes in total. This three (3) minute limit shall not include time expended in answering questions posed by members of the Legislature. Persons speaking at a public hearing may submit a copy of their testimony to the Clerk of the Legislature for inclusion in the public record. Individuals may

participate in the public hearings either in person or via videoconference through the videoconferencing platform designated by the Presiding Officer. Remote participation by members of the public shall be limited to meetings held at the Hauppauge auditorium of the Legislature. Persons speaking at public hearings shall be heard in the order in which they signed up to participate. The Presiding Officer will utilize a list based on the date and time of the initial request to speak for all members of the public regardless of how they will be appearing. Individuals participating via videoconference are encouraged to maintain both video and audio feed throughout the period of their participation.

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[ ] Brackets denote deletion of existing language  
\_\_\_ Underlining denotes addition of new language

DATED: September 9, 2021

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY PURSUANT TO § C2-15(A) OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER