

# COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

JENNIFER BLASKE, ESQ.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

RABBI DR. STEVEN A. MOSS  
CHAIRPERSON

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 5, 2013**

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### **County Executive Bellone declares 2013 “The Year for Human Rights”**

(Riverhead, NY – March 5, 2013) – County Executive Steve Bellone and the Suffolk County Legislature presented the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission with proclamations recognizing the agency’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and declaring 2013 the Year of Human Rights.

As Human Right Commission Chairperson Rabbi Dr. Steven A. Moss stated before the Legislature on the 5th, “Certainly the work of the Commission cannot be relegated to a one-year recognition, but must always be an essential thread in the very fabric of our County’s society. Let us never forget the mandate placed before us by the stirring words of the Declaration of Independence signed on July 4th, 1776: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness — That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...’ and so there must therefore be a Human Rights Commission on the most local of levels to insure these rights for all men and women.’

The Commission was created in May 1963 to enforce the laws against discrimination and to work towards the elimination of bias and intolerance in Suffolk County. The Commission is comprised of a 15-member volunteer board of Commissioners led by Chairperson Rabbi Dr. Steven A. Moss, as well as an office staff, which, under the direction of Executive Director, Jennifer Blaske, enforce the Human Rights Law and investigate complaints of discrimination primarily in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations. Each year the Commission responds to thousands of inquiries from the public, most relating to unfair treatment on the job.

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