



SUFFOLK COUNTY TREASURER

330 CENTER DRIVE RIVERHEAD, N.Y. 11901-3311

Telephone: (631) 852-1500 FAX (631) 852-1507

ANGIE M. CARPENTER
COUNTY TREASURER

for immediate release...

County Treasurer Carpenter Protecting Suffolk's Fiscal Integrity And the Taxpayers

Suffolk County Treasurer Angie M. Carpenter began her service in 2006 as the County's 14th elected Treasurer committed to the fight to protect and preserve this office, and the "checks and balances" it provides for the residents of the County, and is ever vigilant and steadfast in her commitment to Suffolk County taxpayers.

Presently, the County Executive is proposing that the Office of Finance and Taxation (Treasurer's Office) be combined with the Office of Audit and Control (Comptroller's Office) to be headed by a Chief Financial Officer to be **appointed** by the County Executive. Both these offices have very **distinct and separate duties**, none of which is replicated in either office.

According to the County's Charter, and the Suffolk County Tax Act, the Treasurer is the custodian of all money belonging to the County and keeps a true account of all receipts and disbursements. The Comptroller, on the other hand, has the authority to examine, audit, and verify all books, records and accounts kept. The justification for trying to perpetrate this injustice on the taxpayers is that supposedly, Suffolk County is the only county to have an elected Treasurer and Comptroller. The fact of the matter is that **every county** in the State of New York, outside of New York City, has a Treasurer, 72% of whom are elected while only 7 counties in the State have a Comptroller.

The duties and responsibilities of these two offices couldn't be any more different, and that is precisely the way it needs to be...to diminish either would most certainly diminish the internal controls of the County, and **deny the people** of the independence of an elected official who presently **answers directly to the people**.

Continued...



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This is an old idea that has been “dusted off” and once again introduced, this time, by the County Executive’s “Performance Management Team,” without ever coming in to review the operations in the Treasurer’s Office. In 2003, the County’s independent financial advisors weighed in on this issue, and stated that **“such a consolidation could lead to financial deterioration and credit erosion.”**

At a time when the public is crying for better fiscal oversight, transparency, and the requisite “Checks and Balances,” to even consider tampering with what has worked so well for Suffolk County, since the residents first elected their Treasurer in 1903, would be jeopardizing the one thing that everyone should be fighting to protect. Even a first-year accounting major knows that “commingling” of funds is a recipe for financial disaster. Unfortunately, we have had too many examples of this across Long Island in some school districts and municipalities...you can’t have the fox guarding the hen-house.

The Suffolk County Legislature will be conducting a Public Hearing on this vital issue. Treasurer Carpenter is confident that once the public has the opportunity to weigh in on this fiscally critical issue, and Legislators have an opportunity to review all the **factual** information, that they will do the right thing for the people of Suffolk County and join with the Treasurer and Comptroller in “protecting Suffolk’s fiscal integrity.”

The **Public Hearing** will be held on **Monday, July 22, 2013 at 10 am** at the Legislative Building on Veterans Highway in Hauppauge.

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