

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR KARA HAHN



FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

February 7, 2012

CONTACT: [Seth Squicciarino](#)

[Thomas Ryan](#)

631-854-1650

YOU CAN HEAR US NOW

Legislature Adopts Hahn's Audio Posting Bill

HAUPPAUGE, NY – The Suffolk County Legislature today unanimously approved a bill sponsored by Legislator Kara Hahn (D-Setauket) that will increase transparency and government accessibility by requiring the publishing of audio recorded during legislative hearings in a timely fashion. The adopted [Procedural Motion 1-2012](#) requires the Clerk of the Legislature to upload the recordings of general meetings and committee meetings within two hours of their completion. With its adoption, this procedural motion of the Legislature immediately takes effect, thereby allowing residents, for the first time, to listen to the proceedings at their leisure. Prior to its adoption, it could take up to a month for verbatim minutes of hearings to be transcribed and posted online.

This bill was part of a greater effort by Legislator Hahn to make the actions of county government more transparent and accessible to its residents. Increasing government transparency was a core pledge that the freshman Legislator made to constituents last fall, and was fulfilled during the Legislature's first full meeting of the year.

The ultimate goal of this new law is to empower citizens to review and examine the workings of County Government. "The cornerstone of democracy is an informed citizenry, and the more the public can learn about the process, the better off we will be as a County," said Legislator Hahn. "It is my aim to bring the County to the people, and not exclude those

[MORE]

who may not be able to go to Legislative meeting. This will ensure that government operations are conducted in an open and transparent fashion in order to restore the public's trust in a system that too many believe is broken.”

Please go to <http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov/> to find the audio for this, and all future meetings of the Legislature.

-30-

*306 Main Street
Port Jefferson, New York 11777*

kara.hahn@suffolkcountyny.gov

*Telephone: (631) 854-1650
Fax: (631) 854-1653*