



# NEWS...

**From**

**Legislator Tom Cilmi**

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## **Legislator Tom Cilmi Wants to Hear from Employees**

Legislator Tom Cilmi (R-Bay Shore) is holding a public hearing on Tuesday, May 15 to elicit ideas on how Suffolk County can eliminate waste and operate more efficiently. The hearing is scheduled to take place from 5pm to 8pm in the Rose Y. Caracappa Auditorium in the William H. Rogers Legislature Building on Veterans Memorial Highway in Smithtown.

Cilmi hopes to attract employees from a broad spectrum of County operations. He said he's been visited by a number of employees who are scheduled to be laid off on June 30 and nearly all of them have shared ideas on how the County can save money. Cilmi says he expects many of the employees who are on the layoff list to come forward, but says that all employees, as well as members of the public, are invited. Each speaker will have four minutes.

"There is no one better equipped to help find savings and root out waste than our workers," Cilmi said. "Under normal circumstances employees might be hesitant to come forward and that's unfortunate. Or they've shared ideas with their supervisors only to be ignored or told 'that's just the way we do it'. With more than 300 employees facing unemployment at the end of June, now they have nothing to lose."

Cilmi said he hopes every County employee with a suggestion will come forward, regardless of their future employment status. He said, "Our County Executive has made it clear that he wants participation from our employees. There should be no fear of reprisal. This is an opportunity to get some great ideas out in the open. The more of us who hear them, the more likely it is that we can bring about meaningful change." He said he will be inviting all members of the Legislature and hopes the County Executive will attend as well.

Republican Minority Leader John Kennedy said, "As Republicans, we believe in smaller government, comprised of core missions. County employees have already stepped forward to offer beneficial suggestions for efficiency and cost savings, and to reiterate the truth concerning federal and state funded positions and mandates. Legislator Cilmi's call for public hearings goes one step further, and will shine a bright light upon the resourcefulness and innate intelligence of our workforce. To that end I encourage all of our employees to come out and take advantage of this unique opportunity."

While this hearing is scheduled for Smithtown, Cilmi says he's prepared to hold additional hearings in Smithtown and in Riverhead if necessary. "Every employee who has a suggestion will be heard," he said.

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