



NEWS...

From

Legislator Tom Cilmi

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New York State Authorizes Suffolk Traffic Violations Bureau

Suffolk County Legislators Tom Cilmi and Rob Calarco joined in thanking New York State Assemblyman Phil Ramos and Senator Lee Zeldin, sponsors of legislation which passed the Assembly today allowing Suffolk County to establish its own Traffic Violations Bureau. The Senate bill had already been passed.

Governor Cuomo is expected to sign the legislation, A9539-D and S5634-F, which will enable Suffolk to create the new bureau in April of 2013. Calarco and Cilmi cosponsored a home rule message requesting authorization from New York State. Each had praise for the State Legislature.

Calarco said, "We appreciate the Assembly getting this done before the close of their session. This will enable Suffolk County to control the administration and collections of traffic summonses and, once up and running, could mean millions of dollars of additional revenue for the County."

Cilmi agreed, "We've been advocating for this for years. Predictions are that this will generate more than \$10 million annually without increased taxes. At a time when the County and our taxpayers are under tremendous financial stress, this will definitely be a help."

Cilmi said that both Assemblyman Ramos and Senator Zeldin deserve credit for their sponsorship role in getting the bills passed, but Assemblyman Al Graf also deserves credit for his initial work on the idea. "Al thought it was best to have a Democrat sponsor the legislation in the Assembly," Cilmi said, "and Assemblyman Ramos was happy to oblige. With Rob Calarco and I shepherding the home rule through the County Legislature, this was truly a bipartisan effort."

Calarco also gave credit to the County Executive's office for their leadership. He said, "County Executive Bellone really committed the resources to advocating for this project and that was key to our success."

"The Suffolk County Traffic Violations Bureau is an important part of our budget mitigation plan and will make government more efficient," County Executive Steve Bellone said. "I applaud Senator Zeldin, Assemblyman Ramos and our entire state delegation for delivering for Suffolk County. From the efforts of the Legislature to our state delegation, this has been a team effort."

Calarco and Cilmi said the County will immediately begin laying the groundwork necessary to have Suffolk's TVB operational at the earliest possible date.