



**TOM CILMI**  
**Suffolk County Legislator**  
**10th District**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Legislature Calls for Better 9-1-1 Emergency Response**

“No one should be put on hold when calling 9-1-1,” said Legislator Tom Cilmi upon passage of his bill to require Legislative notification whenever staffing levels in the County’s 9-1-1 call center fall below 90% of budgeted positions. Cilmi sponsored the resolution after a number of residents contacted him about delays in speaking to a 9-1-1 operator, and after it was brought to light that the call center was dangerously understaffed.

The bill, co-sponsored by Legislators Kate Browning and Kara Hahn, passed overwhelmingly at the Legislature’s General Meeting on June 4, 2013.

The bill directs the Police Commissioner to notify the Legislature within thirty days when vacancies exceed 10%. Accompanying the report must be an action plan on how the Department is going to manage the shortage until such time as vacancies can be filled.

Cilmi said, “The last thing someone wants to hear during an emergency is ‘please hold’. Seconds could be a matter of life and death. This bill creates accountability and will assure that Legislative policy and priorities such as public safety are being followed and the most basic of County services is being adequately provided”