

NEWS FROM LEGISLATOR

ROB CALARCO



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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-MEDIA RELEASE-

CALARCO PROPOSES BILL TO ELIMINATE TRAFFIC & PARKING VIOLATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE FEE FOR DISMISSED TICKETS

Riverhead, LI—Tuesday, December 3, 2013: When Cheryl Ruebner of Patchogue received a ticket for “driving without required lights” because one of her taillights was out; she made sure to have it repaired immediately. New York State Law allows drivers to fix certain issues within 24 hours of receiving notice of the violation – including a broken taillight. So when, after filing the necessary paperwork with the Police Department to have the violation dismissed, she received notification from Suffolk County’s Traffic & Parking Violations Agency (TPVA) that she still owed a fifty dollar administrative fee, she was confused.

“When Cheryl contacted me, and I started looking into the administrative fee, I was surprised to learn the TPVA was collecting the fee on dismissed violations. It didn’t seem right.” said Legislator Calarco, who heard from Cheryl in early October.

Calarco worked with County Executive Steve Bellone to further investigate how and when the administrative fee is collected, and the two came up with a plan to discontinue the practice of collecting the fee from violations that are dismissed in accordance with New York State regulations – including tickets like the one Cheryl Ruebner received.

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Calarco explained, “New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law lays out the specific types of proof motorists have to provide in order to have certain violations dismissed. It seems like common sense that if a driver conforms to the State’s requirements, their entire violation should be dismissed – including the TPVA administrative fee. I introduced this legislation because it is only fair that we find a way to exempt the people who under state law have their cases dismissed. This amendment will allow us to correct this administrative error and bring fairness to the process.”

A public hearing was held on Introductory Resolution 2060-13, “A LOCAL LAW AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 38-2013 TO CLARIFY THE FEE STRUCTURE FOR THE TRAFFIC AND PARKING VIOLATIONS AGENCY” at the General Meeting of the Legislature on Tuesday, December 3rd. The bill will now return to the Ways & Means Committee on Wednesday, December 11 and will potentially adopted by the Legislature at the December 17, 2013 General Meeting.

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Suffolk County Legislator Rob Calarco represents the 7th Legislative District which includes Patchogue, East Patchogue, North Patchogue, and Medford. Smaller portions of Blue Point, Bellport, Coram, Farmingville, Holtsville, Ronkonkoma, and Fire Island are also included in the District. He is Chairman of the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection committee, Vice Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, as well as a member of the Health Committee and the Ways & Means Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature.