



Office of the Suffolk County Clerk

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COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE EARNS A+ GRADE FOR TRANSPARENCY

The Suffolk County Clerk's Office earned a grade of A+ from the Press Club of Long Island after it conducted an audit of 195 municipalities and agencies on Long Island with regard to their responsiveness and adherence to New York State Freedom of Information Law (F.O.I.L.).

The County Clerk's Office was recognized for its fast response time and helpfulness complying with F.O.I.L. requests. Of the 195 municipalities involved in the audited only 13 received the grade of A+.

"Access to government and its records is just a part of what sets our government apart from other governments around the world. At the end of the day it is the people's government; and transparency is what maintains the people's confidence in these institutions," commented County Clerk Judy Pascale.

According to the audit report, the overall average grade that Long Island local governments and agencies received for FOIL compliance is a C. It was calculated by averaging the grades of all 195 municipalities and agencies. Nassau County agencies scored an average of D+. Suffolk agencies got a C+. The 13 towns and two cities averaged a B grade. And the average grade for the 96 villages was C.

"Providing access to the public records my office maintains, while protecting those that are deemed private and non-public, is something my staff and I take seriously as we continue to strike the appropriate balance of public access," stated Pascale.

The Press Club of Long Island is a professional chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, devoted to protecting and advocating for First Amendment rights, furthering ethical standards and providing ongoing training for members. The full report is available at PCLI.org.