



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

**For Immediate Release**

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**Suffolk to explore on-line police reports**

Legislator Tom Cilmi sponsored a bill in the Suffolk County Legislature directing the Suffolk County Police Department to study and report on the viability of creating a preliminary online police report option for residents wishing to report minor crimes. He said the idea came out of a community meeting on crime.

"Giving residents the option of completing a preliminary police report online yields two chief benefits," said Cilmi. "First, it makes it more convenient for a resident who wishes to report a minor infraction...for example, damage to a mailbox, a stolen bicycle or lawn equipment, or something taken out of an unlocked car. Sometimes the victim doesn't have time to wait around for a police officer to show up. This would give them the ability to enter a report online which includes general information. The report would then generate a phone call from a police officer to set up a mutually convenient time for a proper interview to finalize the report."

"Second, it will take pressure off the Police Department to respond quickly when there may be other public safety priorities or more emergent calls. It may even take some pressure off our 9-1-1 system," said Cilmi.

Cilmi admits there may be challenges to overcome, not the least of which is cost. "That's exactly why I asked the Department to study and report back rather than just directing them to do it," he said. "I want to make sure it's practical and that there are no legal complications."

The bill passed the Suffolk Legislature on October 6, 2015 unanimously and now goes to the County Executive for approval.