

# Community *Report* DuWayne Gregory



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Legislator DuWayne Gregory is sworn in as Presiding Officer by Suffolk County Clerk Judy Pascale with his wife, Erica Chase-Gregory and his mother, Birtie Gregory at his side. Deputy Presiding Officer Jay Schneiderman is in back and center.

## Gregory Named Presiding Officer of Legislature

Fifteenth District Legislator DuWayne Gregory was elected Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature at its organizational meeting in Hauppauge Thursday, January 2. Second District Legislator Jay Schneiderman was elected Deputy Presiding Officer.

All 18 Legislators were sworn in, including four new members William Lindsay III in the Eighth District, Kevin McCaffrey in the 14th district, Monica Martinez in the Ninth District and Robert Trotta in the 13th district. Reappointed were Clerk of the Legislature Timothy Laube, Deputy Clerk

Renee Ortiz and Counsel to the Legislature George Nolan.

In his speech nominating Legislator Gregory, Legislator Schneiderman praised his leadership skills, his honesty and his ability to work across the aisle with all his colleagues. He also

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# Legislator DuWayne Gregory's Community *Report*



The 18 members of the Suffolk County Legislature.

## *From Page 1: Legislator Gregory Named Presiding Officer*

noted that electing the first person of color to ever serve as Presiding Officer was an historic occasion. In his speech seconding Legislator Gregory, Legislator William Spencer noted Legislator Gregory's service in the United States military and the leadership skills and forceful determination that service demonstrated.

PO Gregory thanked his family and his colleagues after his election.

"I am honored to be elected Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature," said PO Gregory following his election. "I will work every day to make sure our county continues on the path to fiscal security, while insuring that we provide the critical public services our residents rely on.

"I have many, many people to thank today," said PO Gregory following his election. "First and foremost, of course, I thank my family, without whose love and support none of this would have been possible.

"I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Legislature for this honor they have bestowed on me. You are not just my colleagues, you are my friends and I prize that friendship. I will work with all of you to address the many serious issues we grapple with

every day. We sometimes disagree on issues, but we always do so respectfully and more often than not we are able to reach a consensus we can all live with.

"I believe the Suffolk County Legislature is the most effective governing body in New York State, and all of my colleagues sitting here are the reason that is true.

"And finally, I would like to thank God for leading me into my career in public service. Helping others, especially the less fortunate, is the basis of all that is good and that is a central part of the message of all religions.

"I will work with the Bellone administration to make Suffolk County government responsive to all county residents, transparent and aboveboard and fiscally conservative. And again, I thank you all for your support."

In other actions at the meeting, the Legislature reappointed Timothy Laube as Clerk, Renee Ortiz as Deputy Clerk, and George Nolan as Counsel to the Legislature. The Legislature also adopted its rules and scheduled its meetings for the year.

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## Gregory Outlines Economic Development Agenda *Top Priorities: Job Creation, Keeping Young People in Suffolk*

Economic development is a major issue for Presiding Officer Gregory and he outlined the regionally significant projects he's supporting at a February meeting of the Melville Chamber of Commerce.

"Promoting economic development and job creation and finding ways to keep our talented young professionals on Long Island are top priorities for me," said Legislator Gregory. "Forging a stronger Suffolk County and Long Island economy are the centerpiece of a better future for all our residents.

"Limited transportation is often seen to be the greatest single barrier to development, especially in auto-dependent suburban communities that equate new development with increased congestion. If Suffolk County is to develop effective and transformative solutions to suburban sprawl, aging population and economic and employment decline, then mass transit, a focus of pedestrian-scaled communities, smart growth and Transit Oriented Development strategies will all need to play a role in the solution.

"To address these challenges, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone released Connect Long Island, a regional transportation and development plan aimed at creating sustainable economic growth through coordinated land-use and transportation planning, and investments in transportation infrastructure that strategically connect key assets such as Suffolk's nationally acclaimed educational and research institutions, Transit Oriented Developments (TOD), and the stops along the three branches of the LIRR.

"In 2013, Suffolk County initiated a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Feasibility Study to identify key north-south corridors within the County suitable for premium BRT service. Through a competitive procurement process, AECOM, a global transportation planning and engineering firm, in association with Parsons Brinckerhoff, B. Thayer Associates and CJ2 Communication Strategies, was selected to undertake the study.

"The principal objectives of this BRT Feasibility Study are to identify three preferred BRT corridors,



Legislator DuWayne Gregory

describe the BRT elements suitable for each conceptual corridor, and to develop a preliminary implementation plan, along with recommended next steps. The countywide study is underway and the County secured \$1.5 million towards implementation through the LI Regional Economic Development Council.

### **ROUTE 110**

"The 'main street' of Suffolk County is Route 110 – a multi-lane arterial street that runs north-south near the western boundary of the county. Suffolk County promotes Route 110 as the "high tech main street" of Long Island, and for good reason. Route 110 is home to, or is proximate to, numerous high tech firms, colleges and research institutions. Route 110 is the preeminent 'Class A' office corridor in Suffolk County and it attracts national and international firms such as Nikon and Canon. Route 110 also has its share of 'big box' retail stores and regional shopping malls but, unlike a traditional downtown, Route 110 lacks an urban center.

"The roadway environment of Route 110 varies. In the town of Amityville, Route 110 has a traditional town 'feel'. North of Amityville, and for much of the 12-mile Route 110 study area, the roadway is multi-lane with center median crash barriers.

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“With posted speed limits of up to 50mph, Route 110 can be a highly auto-centric environment where pedestrians and bus customers seem out of place.

“Through the leadership of then Town of Babylon Supervisor Steve Bellone, however, there is a desire to remake Route 110 into a more sustainable corridor befitting its ‘high tech main street’ status.

“Suggestions being evaluated include:

“--To keep buses moving, Transit Signal Priority (TSP) was proposed to extend the green traffic light signal phase or to truncate the red signal phase. Portions of Route 110 are graced with wide roadway shoulders that can be readily converted to high visibility bus lanes identified by red colored asphalt, red paint or thermoplastic treatments.

“--BRT stations that would feature all-weather protection from the elements, seating, station identification pylons, interior lighting, seasonal heating, level boarding, off-board fare collection, bicycle racks (where space permitted) and artwork. The intention is to provide a high quality waiting environment.

“--Improve access to BRT stations. Traditionally, some U.S. transit providers assumed that, once their customers alighted from a bus, another entity was responsible for providing good sidewalk or pedestrian connections from/to the bus stop.

“--To grow more sustainably for the longer term, and to reverse some of the autocratic land use planning concepts that have taken root along Route 110, PB proposed a variety of methods to promote TOD and spur transit supportive land uses. The proposed BRT improvements are not an ‘all or nothing’ recommendation.

The plans and recommendations proposed will take time to implement as funding and further detailed studies are required.

“--The Town of Babylon has completed the RTE 110 Study, identifying potential development opportunity areas and potential service configurations, and is currently working towards the selection of a consultant team to assist with the Alternative Analysis process and selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative.

### **Housing Developments**

“Let me give a brief rundown of housing developments:

“Huntington Station 1) Columbia Terrace (Lowndes & Railroad Avenue): 14 homeownership units.

County partnered with the Town to purchase blighted parcels for redevelopment. We invested \$389,000 in land acquisition funds and are committed to fund an additional \$100,000 in infrastructure funds. The Town is working through their approval process. There will be a preference for veterans.



Legislator DuWayne Gregory (top, bottom) meets with members of the Melville Chamber of Commerce.

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## Who Is Your Shero?

Amityville, NY – Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory wants to shine a spotlight on women heroes in our community by sponsoring a high school student essay competition in celebration of National Women's History Month.

"Throughout the month of March, we recognize extraordinary women who have transformed and shaped our great country," said Pre-

siding Officer Gregory. "This year, to commemorate Women's History Month, I am inviting high school students in grades 9 through 12 to write about a woman he or she knows personally whose actions or character inspired them."

One essay will be selected as the winner and the student and his/her Shero will be recognized at the April 29 General Meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature.

"Everyone knows a woman who has made a positive impact on their life," said Presiding Officer Gregory. "Women's History Month is a great opportunity for students to tell their story and to recognize the extraordinary women who, in great or simple ways, touch our lives."

Submissions will be accepted until March 28. For details, please contact Presiding Officer Gregory's district office at 631-854-1111.

## Presiding Officer Gregory Sponsors Walgreens-LIAAC National Black AIDS/HIV Awareness Day Event

Amityville, NY – Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory would like to thank Long Island Association for AIDS Care Inc. and Walgreens for recently hosting a National Black AIDS/HIV awareness event.

Free HIV testing along with flu shots, blood pressure checks and other health screenings, were offered to the community at Amityville Walgreens as part of a community outreach program for National Black AIDS/HIV Aware-

ness Day on February 7.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has designated several annual AIDS awareness days throughout the year. For details, visit <http://aids.gov/news-and-events/awareness-days/>

## *From Page 4: Economic Development Agenda*

"2) Gateway Gardens (Lowndes Avenue)The County invested \$400,000 in federal HOME funds for the rehabilitation of this 40 unit affordable rental development.

"-Wyandanch: Building A - \$1,723,800 in infrastructure funding for 60 affordable rental units. Building B -\$2,200,000 in infrastructure funding for 62 affordable rental units The County continues to support Canon and their growth in Melville. Canon mentioned they would consider manufacturing in the U.S. and we would certainly work with them to open right here in Melville.

"And up 110 in Huntington Village the IDA and the County supported a high tech accelerator space, Launch Pad Suffolk, which will generate dozens of tech jobs for the area.

"We approved a \$22 million project for Kedrion which will create over 30 new bio tech jobs for the

Melville area while retaining over 150 jobs.

"The Suffolk IDA is a close partner of the Melville Chamber of Commerce. The Suffolk County IDA played a key role in convincing Canon to move their corporate headquarters here and I will continue to encourage the IDA to find similar businesses interested in moving to the Route 110 corridor. The tax incentives the IDA offers make Route 110 an attractive alternative for major businesses.

"I understand your chamber has a Young Professionals Group and creating good job and affordable housing for our young professionals is a primary concern for me. The regionally significant projects I previously cited are designed to achieve both those aims and I will continue to advocate for similar projects that will keep our talented young people living and working on Long Island.

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Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory is pictured with Jackie Narkiewicz, Copiague Library; Irma Orozco, PFML; and children who participated in the PFML workshop

## PFML Tells Kids: You're in Charge of Your Body

Amityville, NY – Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory co-sponsored a workshop for children and parents to assist in empowering children to protect themselves from child abuse.

The Parents for Megan's Law's workshop entitled "You're in Charge" is tailored to young children from preschool-age to third grade. Copiague Memorial Library hosted the workshop, which raises awareness for parents and teaches children that 'they get to decide who touches them and how.'

Laura Ahearn, Executive Director of Parents for Megan's Law and the Crime Victims Center, praised Presiding Officer Gregory for his dedication to educational programs

aimed at preventing sexual victimization, and providing services to those in need. She added that, "Presiding Officer Gregory is a staunch advocate for the community, and his presence at community-based educational programs demonstrates his commitment to our most vulnerable populations."

Copiague Library Director of Children Services, Jackie Narkiewicz said, "Parents for Megan's Law is able to take a very sensitive subject and make it more understandable for both parents and children. Children are empowered after taking this class because they learn to use songs and catch phrases that they can use if they find themselves in an uncomfortable situation with

an adult."

"I commend the dedicated representative of Parents for Megan's Law for her commitment to the safety and well-being of the children in our community," said Presiding Officer Gregory. "Their organization adeptly provides age-appropriate information to children along with resources for parents to help keep their children safe."

Presiding Officer Gregory will join Parents for Megan's Law as they present workshops in communities across Suffolk County. For more information about Parents for Megan's Law, their programs and services, visit [www.parentsformeganlaw.org](http://www.parentsformeganlaw.org)

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Presiding Officer Gregory is pictured with Girl Scout Service Unit 19 Leader Michele Camilleri and girls from Troop 338.

## Presiding Officer Gregory's Food Drive Collects More Than 800 Pounds of Food for Island Harvest

Amityville, NY – Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory sponsored a food drive at Amityville Stop and Shop to benefit Island Harvest Saturday. Girls from Amityville Girl Scout Troop 338 came out in force to collect over 800 lbs pounds of food.

“I am amazed by the spirit of enthusiasm of these young children,” said Presiding Officer Gregory.

“With smiling faces, they are happy to help out for a good cause. I have to thank Stop and Shop for host-

ing the event and the residents of the 15th Legislative District for their overwhelming generosity. It is heart-warming to see so many of our neighbors donating to those in need. I couldn't be more proud.”

Under the supervision of Girl Scout Service Unit 19 Leader Michele Camilleri, several Brownies and Daisies aged 5-1/2 to 8, together with their parents, took part in the community service event with Presiding Officer Gregory, taking turns greeting shoppers and organizing donated items.

## National 'Take Your Child to the Library Day'

### *Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory Reads to Children at Copiague Library*

Amityville, NY – Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory joined Copiague Memorial Public Library in celebrating 'Take Your Child to the Library Day' as a guest reader.

For the third consecutive year, public libraries across the country have designated February 1st as 'Take Your Child to the Library Day.' What began in 2012 as a grass roots initiative has grown to into a national event with hundreds of libraries participating by highlighting the services provided by public libraries and underscoring the importance of taking children to visit their public library.

"It was my pleasure to be a guest reader for the children," said Presiding Officer Gregory. "I want to thank the Copiague Library for hosting this event, as it provides a fun, kid-friendly way for children to develop a lifelong love of reading."



Presiding Officer Gregory is pictured reading to children at Copiague Memorial Public Library.

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Pictured from left: Walgreens District Pharmacy Supervisor Louis Morandi; Walgreens representative Stephanie Monroy; Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory; Walgreens Manager Ryan Tarello and representatives Louis D'Introno and Ravi Shah.