

JOINT MEDIA ADVISORY




TODAY at 10:30



DUWAYNE GREGORY
MAJORITY LEADER
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2012

Struggling in Suburbia

Meeting the Challenges of Poverty in Suffolk County: A Series of Public Hearings

WHO: Suffolk County Legislative Majority Leader and chair of the Human Services Committee DuWayne Gregory (D – Amityville) and Richard Koubek, chair the Legislature’s Welfare to Work Commission will hold a press conference to announce three upcoming public hearings titled, *Struggling in Suburbia: Meeting the Challenges of Poverty in Suffolk County*. The hearings themselves will be held in the Hauppauge or Riverhead legislative auditoriums on May 18, May 22 and June 1st.

WHEN: **TODAY, May 10th, 10:30 AM**

WHERE: the lobby of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building in Hauppauge

WHAT: The reasons why the hearings are being held, as well as why the Commission will follow the hearings with a report to the Legislature on poverty in Suffolk County, will be explained by:

- Legislative Majority Leader DuWayne Gregory, Chair of the Legislature’s Human Services Committee
- Richard Koubek, PhD, Chair of the Welfare to Work Commission
- John O’Neal, Deputy Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Social Services
- Don Friedman, Empire Justice Center and Co-Chair of the Commission’s Poverty Hearings Planning Committee
- Jeffrey Reynolds, PhD, LICADD, Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
- Kathy Liguori, Vice Chair of the Commission and Chair of its Child Care Committee
- Renee Delgado and Jennifer Verdi-Nolan, working parents who just lost their subsidized child care

WHY: In the fall of 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau released startling data which showed a dramatic increase in the number of Americans – especially suburbanites – now living in poverty. This is why the Welfare to Work Commission is holding these public hearings: to tell the often hidden story of poverty in suburbia. The hearings will be open to government officials, agency heads, academic experts and the public. The hearings will be followed by a report to the Suffolk County Legislature with specific policy recommendations to assist struggling Suffolk residents who cannot make ends meet in this high-cost region.