

OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

DuWAYNE GREGORY
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT
15 ALBANY AVENUE
AMITYVILLE, NY 11701



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Don't Ask Don't Sell

Legislature Adopts Gregory Initiative Prohibiting Contract Agencies from Selling Minors' Personal information

AMITYVILLE, NY— At the Tuesday December 18th meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature member's unanimously agreed to support a child protection initiative sponsored by Majority Leader and 15th district Legislator DuWayne Gregory (D-Amityville). Gregory's legislation requires that all County contracts with agencies providing services to minors include a provision prohibiting those agencies from selling or providing the personal information of any minor participating in their programs to third parties.

Despite numerous cuts to close the gap of the County's budget deficit, the 2013 operating budget including funding of almost \$56 million disbursed between 298 agencies that contract with the County to provide a wide array of services to minors.

Gregory eschewed from including any punitive penalties in the measure. But the de facto consequence of committing a violation would be the automatic revocation of the associated contract as well as the accompanying funding.

"I understand that, with government cutbacks, it's very difficult for not-for-profit agencies to secure the funds they need to offer the valuable services they provide on behalf of the County," says Gregory. "But selling the names, addresses, emails contacts and phone numbers of children to third party vendors is not an acceptable way to raise revenue. The County provides precious taxpayer dollars to these agencies to help and protect children, not so they can become the targets of inscrutable marketers."

Gregory's legislation now goes to County Executive's desk for signing and then to the New York Secretary of State's Office where it will become effectively immediately upon filing.