

# OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**DuWAYNE GREGORY**  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR  
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT  
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AMITYVILLE, NY 11701



## ***MEDIA STATEMENT***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Gregory Expresses Outrage at Albany's Stall of Budgeted Lease-Back Plan**

**AMITYVILLE, NY**— Today Suffolk County Legislative Majority Leader and Budget & Finance Committee Chairman DuWayne Gregory (15<sup>th</sup> Id, D— Amityville) expressed his dismay and disgust with New York State lawmakers' decision not to allow Suffolk to sell and lease back at least two county buildings— including the H. Lee Dennison Building— which would bring in an estimated \$70 million. Without the money Suffolk's \$250 million budget hole would grow even larger. Of the lack of action Gregory says:

*"Granting this lease-back will have zero impact on the state budget. And that's what's so disappointing about Albany's decision to delay Suffolk's ability to pursue this desperately needed financial-revenue plan as soon as possible. Sadly, it's indicative of the top heavy budgeting process that has taken over Albany.*

*On the one hand, state lawmakers refuse to give local governments the tools they need to balance their budgets. While on the other hand, these same state lawmakers keep increasing the services we in local government are mandated to provide in their name.*

*With all due respect to my colleagues in Nassau County, the idea of tying our fiscal fate to theirs is just disingenuous. While our Island neighbors to the west have been paralyzed, unable to form any consensus on how to deal with their budget shortfalls, last year the Suffolk County Legislature and County Executive Bellone spoke in near unanimity on taking the difficult but necessary steps to deal with our budget shortfall. Part of that comprehensive plan includes the sale lease-back of County owned facilities.*

*Much separates our two counties from a fiscal perspective but the one thing that we and every local government across the state shares is this— we all continue to be held hostage to the trickle-down budgetary process that Albany so proudly boasts about in their faux reform themed, self-congratulatory press releases.*

*If our state leaders really want us to believe they are serious about budget reform, then I encourage them to act as soon as possible to allow Suffolk to take this next crucial step in our ongoing efforts to address our budget shortfall. This lease-back is necessary, it's budgeted, and it's painless to them, so it's about time it's blessed by Albany."*