

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 5, 2014

Bill Signing Event Protecting Youth from Powdered Caffeine May Have National Implications

Hauppauge, NY - A Suffolk County bill that will be signed into law by County Executive Steve Bellone today will ban the sale of powdered caffeine to minors. The bill aimed at protecting our youth from the dangers of caffeine toxicity was unanimously approved by the Suffolk County Legislature during the October 7th General Meeting. **I.R. 1727** was introduced by Presiding Officer Duwayne Gregory and co-sponsored by Legislator William R. Spencer (D-Centerport) in response to the recent upsurge in reports of overdoses associated with powdered caffeine. The bill has received national attention as federal lawmakers are looking to form a delegation with Legislators Gregory and Spencer to meet in Washington D.C. in early December to lobby the FDA on classifying pure caffeine as a drug and implementing protective regulations including the ban of the sale of the product to minors. The bill has also received the attention of Hard Rhino, the company that produces the caffeine product, and who is now looking to change their formulation by reducing the potency.

WHO: Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone
Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature DuWayne Gregory
Suffolk County Legislator William R. Spencer
Other County Legislators
Suffolk County Department of Health Commissioner Dr. James Tomarken

WHAT: I.R. 1727, prohibiting the sale of powdered caffeine to minors bill in Suffolk County, bill signing

WHEN: Wednesday, November 5, 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Lobby of H. Lee Dennison Building, Hauppauge

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