

# SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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From Left to right: 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Officer Angela Ferrara, Assemblyman Andrew Raia, Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, Councilman Eugene Cook, Legislator William Spencer, Dr. James Hayward, Suffolk County Police Chief James Burke, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Councilwoman Susan Berland, 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Deputy Inspector William Read and Village of Northport Police Chief Ric Bruckenthal

## County Officials Announce Innovative Tech Tool to Meet Community Needs *21<sup>st</sup> Century Public Safety Pilot Program Coming to Huntington Station*

**Huntington, NY** - Today, Suffolk County Legislator William R. Spencer, M.D., was joined by Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, numerous other elected officials and community members to announce a pilot program to utilize cutting-edge technology that will combat theft in Huntington Station. In coordination with *Applied DNA Sciences*, an international company based in Suffolk County, law enforcement will be provided with a new, highly technical tool to continue enhancing community safety. When tested in cities such as London and Stockholm, this technology has proven to have outstanding results.

The announcement, made in the heart of Huntington Station at the recently opened Huntington Opportunity Resource Center, came after many months of planning. "When I was approached last year by the scientists at *Applied DNA Sciences* with this unique technology, it was clear that it has great potential to be an effective tool in keeping communities safer," stated Legislator Spencer.

“Increasing public safety in Huntington Station and all of Suffolk County has always been a central focus of mine. Bringing in this resource will make this great community even better.”

“This technology is another tool our police can use against crime,” Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said. “Our police will be able to address and solve theft of personal property with the information made available by DNAweb.”

Legislator Spencer has been in communication with Suffolk County District Attorney, Thomas Spota, who has expressed his support for the pilot program, “This use of DNA technology potentially will provide both critical evidence and the means to expedite the often complicated task of returning stolen property to its rightful owner. I’m optimistic Legislator Spencer’s pilot project implementing this useful tool in Huntington Station will be successful.”

Suffolk County Police Chief James Burke stated, “While overall crime is down in Suffolk County, we welcome the opportunity to utilize the gold standard of identification technology in our efforts to further reduce property crime.”

“As technology continues to improve, it is imperative that we provide our law enforcement personnel with the most up-to-date tools to help deter crime and enhance public safety,” said Legislator Lou D’Amaro (D-Huntington Station). “I applaud my colleague Legislator Spencer for advancing this innovative concept and I look forward to its implementation in the Huntington Station community.”

Dr. James Hayward, Ph.D., CEO of *Applied DNA Sciences* stated, “This is an ingenious, but simple, safe and affordable technology that can change the world. It can change the municipalities that use DNA net into safer communities with lower crime rates and better quality of life. We are grateful to be working with our Long Island neighbors.”

The pilot program, a coordinated effort between the Suffolk County Police Department and *Applied DNA Sciences*, will consist of the selection of 500 homes in Huntington Station. The homeowners will be provided with the innovative technology; DNA home marking kits that will be unique to each homeowner. The information will be compiled in a data-base and will identify the property owner in the event that valuables from their home are removed or stolen. Residents will also receive warning signs that they can place on their property indicating the use of the technology. The program will be evaluated for its effectiveness by the Police Department 6 months after implementation. Once evaluated, the Suffolk County Police Department will make recommendations for further application of the technology.

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