

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Frank Rivera, President of Sarcoidosis of Long Island, was awarded a proclamation by the Suffolk County Legislature for his work with Sarcoidosis. From left to right: Legislator Hahn, Frank Rivera, and Legislators Anker and Spencer.

April is Sarcoidosis Awareness Month in Suffolk County

Hauppauge, NY - On April 12, 2016, a resolution declaring April as Sarcoidosis Awareness Month passed unanimously. This bill will raise awareness of sarcoidosis and help educate the public and health professionals about new developments in the field of sarcoidosis.

Sarcoidosis is an autoimmune disease with an unknown cause. In this disease, immune system cells clump together forming lumps called granulomas that can interfere with normal organ function. Sarcoidosis can affect any organ, but appears to most commonly target lungs and lymph nodes. As such, the symptoms of sarcoidosis can be very varied, but it is common to feel very tired, uneasy, depressed, have night sweats, and undergo weight loss. There is no cure, but there are treatment options for patients suffering from this disease.

"I was personally invested in the passage of this legislation because my mother suffered from sarcoidosis for decades," said Legislator Spencer. "This bill will raise awareness about this terrible disease in Suffolk County and help residents suffering with sarcoidosis. I would like to thank Frank Rivera and the members of Sarcoidosis Long Island for their efforts to help those diagnosed with sarcoidosis."

"I am humbled to join forces with Frank Rivera, a patient advocate and leader of Sarcoidosis of Long Island" Legislator Hahn said. "My resolution declared April Sarcoidosis Awareness Month and directs our Health Department to conduct an outreach program to arm physicians with information on the latest sarcoidosis advancements so that patients can receive better care." Hahn went on to say "This resolution will bring much needed attention to this inflammatory disease that affects so many of our loved ones across Suffolk County."

Sarcoidosis is a tricky and complicated disease because it can have acute and chronic effects. Some people will go into remission only to have it return later. The prognosis and treatment of this disease varies based on which organ or organs are impacted.

“Rare diseases like Sarcoidosis do not receive the attention they deserve. Sarcoidosis can affect multiple organs, and it is important to raise awareness so residents can detect the symptoms early on,” said Legislator Anker. “Thank you to Sarcoidosis of Long Island for their continued effort to raise awareness across Nassau and Suffolk Counties, and for offering support to individuals diagnosed with Sarcoidosis.”

For further information, please visit www.sarcoidosisofli.com.

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