



SUFFOLK WORKS BECAUSE WE DO!

HEADQUARTERS
30 Orville Drive, Suite A
Bohemia, NY 11716
Phone: 631.589.8400
Fax: 631.589.3860
Web: www.suffolkame.com

EXECUTIVE BOARD

DANIEL C. LEVLER PRESIDENT	THOMAS P. MORAN EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
ANAMARIE CUCCINIELLO TREASURER	CHRISTINA A. MAHER RECORDING SECRETARY
NICHOLAS P. K. DE BELLO VICE PRESIDENT	CHRISTIAN W. LIMBACH VICE PRESIDENT
STANLEY J. HUMIN, III VICE PRESIDENT	BEN CHIARAMONTE VICE PRESIDENT

DANIELLE BOTKIN SERGEANT AT ARMS	DANIEL COFFEY SERGEANT AT ARMS	DONALD P. DAILEY, JR. SERGEANT AT ARMS
--	--	--

Board of Directors

Mary Esperto
CSEB
Ryan Blake
Consumer Affairs
Civil Service
Beverly Avgeros
Crossing Guards
Samantha Janus
District Attorney
Michael Johnson
Finance & Technology
Christopher Weiner
Family Services
John Manzi
FRES
Joseph Muncey
Hauppauge South
Palma Barnes
Health Services
Kelly Shivers
H. Lee Dennison Unit
James Eddings
Labor Dept.
JoanMarie Vaccaro
Medicaid
Ramona Scioli-DelZio
Medical Examiners
Michael Arnoni
Parks Dept.
Desirée Evangelista
Patient Care
Christina Caldea
Police Civilian
Barbara Gordon
Police Emergency
Nicholas Mangelli
DPW Buildings
Frank DiGirolamo
DPW Sanitation Blue
Matthew Arendt
DPW Sanitation White
Shaun Fitzpatrick
DPW Blue
Geoff Mascaro
DPW White
Josephine Riley
Retirees
Pauline Jenkins
Riverhead County Center
William Mirra
Sheriff/Probation Civilian
Carmen Wallace-Dixon
Dept. of Social Services
William Jones
SCCC Blue
Thomas Lima
SCCC Security
Josephine Makowski
SCCC White
Brian Viggiano
Vector Control

January 30, 2023

Testimony Submitted by Suffolk Association of Municipal Employees (AME) submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on Workforce Development and Labor

Thank you, Finance Chair Krueger, Ways and Means Chair Weinstein, Senate Civil Service and Pensions Chair Jackson, Assembly Governmental Employees Chair Pheffer Amato, and members of the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Committee for this opportunity to submit testimony to the Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Workforce Development and Labor.

As the largest independent union in Suffolk County, Suffolk AME represents over 6,000 active and 4,000 retired public employees. Our members span a wide range of responsibilities, from blue-collar roles to white-collar professionals, and are integral to key departments such as the Police, Health, Public Works, and Social Services. We are dedicated to negotiating fair contracts and maintaining a skilled and educated workforce in Suffolk County.

A significant challenge we face is the recruitment and retention of our workforce. We propose several ways in which the Legislature can assist, without altering the fundamental principles of the Civil Service System that ensures fair employment based on ability and fitness.

A critical area for reform is Pension Tier Equity/Tier Reform. Although not addressed in the FY 2025 Executive Budget, it is essential to correct disparities within Tier 5/6. We suggest the following changes:

- Permanently exclude overtime payments from the calculation of members' required pension contributions (Part SS of Chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, currently set to sunset on December 31, 2024).
- Standardize employee contributions to the retirement system at 3% for all, rather than the current sliding scale which diminishes the impact of salary increases.
- Base the final average salary calculation on a 3-year period, instead of the existing 5-year model.

These reforms are vital for enhancing our ability to recruit and retain a dedicated public service workforce. Our members play a crucial role in making Suffolk a vibrant, prosperous community. Effective governance relies on the support and acknowledgment of the workforce behind it. We urge the legislative leaders to consider these proposals seriously, for the continued betterment of Suffolk County.

Suffolk County works, because we do!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Levler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel C. Levler
Suffolk AME President