

Resolution of the Town Board for the Town of Woodbury Urging the New York State Legislature to Consider Immediate Changes to the Newly Enacted Criminal Justice Reform Laws

WHEREAS, in April 2019 the New York State Legislature passed sweeping criminal justice legislation changing, among other things, the use of bail and rules regarding the sharing of evidence in criminal proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the changes went into effect January 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, prior to the changes taking effect, many district attorneys, other law enforcement officials, and residents of New York State expressed serious concern regarding the new laws, including the elimination of the ability for a judge to set bail in many instances, impacted discovery timelines in criminal proceedings, and law enforcement's compromised ability to safely engage witnesses; and

WHEREAS, although the laws were passed with the intention of reforming injustices within the criminal justice system, which we are fully in favor of, we firmly believe that the unintended consequences pose serious risk to the public safety of our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED by the Town Board for the Town of Woodbury to urge the New York State Legislature to immediately revise the newly enacted criminal justice reform laws to address the concerns of New York State Attorney General Letitia James, district attorneys, and law enforcement officials throughout the state, while maintaining the intent of the laws which were to alleviate disparities within our system; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to New York State Senator James Skoufis and New York State Assemblyman Colin Schmitt.