

# SUSPENSION

## A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATOR LORIGO

Re: Awaiting Guidance from the New York State Judicial System Prior to Releasing Certain Personal Information

WHEREAS, recently, The Journal News, requested the names and addresses of legally permitted gun owners in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties via a Freedom of Information Law request; and

WHEREAS, Westchester and Rockland Counties promptly released the information, which was equally promptly posted on the world wide web as part of a news story, complete with an interactive map to permit holder residences; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Clerk has not yet complied, and is legally challenging the contention that he is required to produce the information; and

WHEREAS, by posting the information on the internet, The Journal News has informed citizens who has a permit to possess certain firearms; and

WHEREAS, further, The Journal News has also informed potential thieves seeking weapons where they can find certain firearms; and

WHEREAS, The Journal News has also informed burglars, armed and unarmed, who has a permit to own certain firearms for protecting his or her family, and, perhaps more appealing to burglars, who does not; and

WHEREAS, The Journal News has also told soon to be released inmates the home addresses of Corrections Officers with whom they may harbor a grudge; and

WHEREAS, The Journal News has also informed criminal defendants the home address of law enforcement officers who may have arrested the defendant or may serve as a witness against the defendant, as well as the address of that officer's family; and

WHEREAS, although the intention of The Journal News may have possibly been noble and well intentioned, the ramifications of releasing the information could be putting thousands of individuals and families in serious danger; and

WHEREAS, before responding to such broad Freedom of Information Law requests, it is wise to wait until the New York State Judicial System has made a final definitive ruling.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature goes on record requesting that Erie County Clerk Christopher Jacobs waits until the New York State Judicial System has made a final definitive ruling on releasing information pertaining to firearms permit holders prior to responding to a broad Freedom of Information Law request; and be it further

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RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Erie County Clerk Christopher Jacobs, the local delegation of the New York State Legislature and Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Fiscal Impact: None.