

Edward R. Romano
Edward R. Romano

Chad A. Zuprince

Suffolk County
Supervisors
Association

January 15, 2020

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
NYS Governor
NYS Capital Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write today in support of Guardianship Corp., a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to representing indigent people in need of guardianship throughout Long Island. With a small paid staff and network of volunteers from the Suffolk County R.S.V.P. (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), Guardianship Corp. provides high-quality guardianship services to its clients at a small percentage of normal costs.

The individuals that Guardianship Corp. works with are vulnerable members of our communities. All of their cases are from low-to-moderate income status and lack of alternative support systems in the Community to ensure their welfare, and are impacted with Alzheimer's disease, traumatic brain injuries and/or a general decline in cognitive abilities leaving them vulnerable. With a shortage of guardians in Suffolk County, coupled with a senior population significantly aging over the last 20 years, a major public welfare issue is arising. Unfortunately, New York State does not have a Community Guardianship Program, meaning that Guardianship Corp. is doing its best to bridge a very large gap to ensure all individuals in this position are cared for.

Guardianship Corp. was originally funded by the New York State Office of Court Administration in 2018 and has been able to help many individuals in our community. However, they are now in need of sustainable funding to keep up their admirable work. To support the current caseload of 40 wards into the future, we are in support of on-going funding for this critical program of \$250,000 through fiscal year 2020 - 2021.

Guardianship Corp.'s work has not gone unnoticed here in Suffolk County. Losing their capacity in our community will leave helpless individuals in terrible situations. We ask that you join us in supporting their efforts.

Please contact Guardianship Corp. CEO Robert Heppenheimer for more information at 631-650-2325 or guardiancorpsceo@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Chad A. Zuprince

Chad A. Zuprince

Rich Schaffer
Supervisor, Town of Babylon
Chair, Suffolk County Supervisors Association

Chad A. Lupinacci
Supervisor, Town of Huntington

Angie M. Carpenter

Angie Carpenter
Supervisor, Town of Islip

Edward R. Wehrheim
Supervisor, Town of Smithtown

Edward P. Romaine
Supervisor, Town of Brookhaven

Yvette Aguiar
Supervisor, Town of Riverhead

Jay Schneiderman
Supervisor, Town of Southampton

Scott Russell
Supervisor, Town of Southold

Gerry Siller

Peter Van Scoyoc
Supervisor, Town of East Hampton

Gerry Siller
Supervisor, Town of Shelter Island

Supervisor's Office - 200 E. Sunrise Highway - Lindenhurst, NY 11757



Cc:

Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul
The State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Majority Leader
The State Capitol, Room 330
Albany, NY 12224

John Flanagan
Minority Leader
Room 909 LOB
Albany, NY 12247

Senator Kenneth LaValle
28 N. Country Rd., Suite 203
Mount Sinai, NY 11766

Senator Monica Martinez
250 Veterans Memorial Highway
NYS Office Building, Room 3B-41
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Senator Philip Boyle
69 W Main Street, Suite B
Bay Shore, NY 11706

Senator James Gaughran
250 Townsend Square
99-111 South Street, Suite 250
Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Senator John Brooks
5550 Merrick Road, Suite 205
Massapequa, NY 11758

Assemblyman Carl Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
Room 932 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Assemblyman William Barclay
Minority Leader
Capitol 444
Albany, NY 12248

Assemblyman Brian Kolb
Room 933 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Jr.
2302 Main St., P.O. Box 3062
Bridgehampton, NY 11932

Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo
30 W Main Street, Suite 103
Riverhead, NY 11932

Assemblyman Joseph Destefano
1735 N Ocean Avenue, Suite A
Medford, NY 11763

Assemblyman Steven Englebright
149 Main Street
East Setauket, NY 11733

Assemblyman Douglas Smith
991 Main St., Suite 202
Holbrook, NY 11741

Assemblyman Philip Ramos
1010 Suffolk Avenue
Brentwood, NY 11717

Assemblyman Andrew Garbarino
859 Montauk Highway, Suite 1
Bayport, NY 11705

Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick
50 Route 111, Suite 202
Smithtown, NY 11787

Assemblyman Michael LiPetri
512 Park Boulevard
Massapequa, NY 11762

Assemblyman Steve Stern
630 New York Avenue, Suite D
Huntington, NY 11762

Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre
640 W Montauk Highway
Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Supervisor's Office - 200 E. Sunrise Highway - Lindenhurst, NY 11757
- (631) 957-3072
