

## ALERT TO SUFFOLK COUNTY DRY CLEANERS USING EITHER ALTERNATIVE SOLVENTS OR PERC

March 24, 2016

Suffolk Legislator Kara Hahn (the Democratic Majority leader and Chairperson of the County's Environmental Committee) has legislation pending intending to expose dry cleaners who promote their 'eco-friendly' processes by making them display two color coded warning signs alerting consumers as to the chemical solvent or method you are using. The signage would feature a color coded rating, disclosing what the environmental, health and safety risks are from exposure. The determination as to the type and degree of risk would be made by the Suffolk County Department of Health. The signs will have to be displayed in your front window and in your call office.

There have been at least 3 hearings of the Suffolk County Legislature on the subject, and the environmental group, Green Inside and Out is aggressively campaigning for a strong bill to be passed.

At the very least you must send an email to:

[Jason.richberg@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:Jason.richberg@suffolkcountyny.gov)

All emails should say: I am a Suffolk County business owner and resident and am writing to express my objections to IR 1000-2016 A Local Law to Increase Awareness of Dry Cleaning Chemical Use. Please include this letter in the record and distribute to all legislators.

For ideas on what else to write in your email, scroll down.

If you really want to put the pressure on, you should contact by phone or email your legislator in Suffolk County and express opposition to this legislation as it is currently proposed. The resolution # is Res. No. 1000-2016. Ask for a meeting. If you want, we will go with you.

To find your legislators – and you should identify and contact the legislators for BOTH your home and business address – go to <http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov/legislators.html>

Tell them how many years you've been in business in the community, and how you support local activities, pay taxes and since you and your family live in Suffolk, you too have a vital interest in its affairs.

Tell them over the years, the increase in government regulations have made it harder to make a living and provide employment to others.

Then tell your legislator that perc cleaners are required by NYS Law to post an 11 x 17 sign advising consumers that it is the principal solvent in use, disclosing the health risks and providing a phone number to contact for complaints or additional information. Tell them that requiring two additional signs to that effect is totally unnecessary. Tell them the cleaners are inspected annually to make sure the sign is prominently displayed.

You can also mention that none of the alternative solvents are classified as Hazardous Air Pollutants or Hazardous waste, and that the hi- tech, zero emission design of the new equipment used with these new solvents, means that consumer exposure is virtually non existent.

The NCA's has taken the position that a single 8 x 11 sign hung in the call office, similar to the sign required by the NYC DEP, disclosing the principal cleaning methods in use and directing consumers to a website containing the Material Safety Data Sheet on that solvent, would achieve the legislative intent of the proposal. We support consumer education about our processes, but object to the scare tactics associated with a color coded warning sign crafted to unnecessarily alarm and disturb consumers about a non-detectable risk. We also object to the requirement of TWO signs, since it is robbing us of valuable space for us to promote our services to sustain our business.

Please be sure to let NCA know who you have contacted, AND their response.

Feel free to call us at 212 967 3002 with any questions or comments concerning the issue or the position we have taken or if you'd like to have us accompany you to a meeting with your legislators.