

162-26

BRUCE BLAKEMAN
County Executive



NASSAU COUNTY
New York

Staff Summary 2026

Date: 06/11/2026	Legislation Type: Resolution
Dept: County Executive	Subject: Appointment Resolution to confirm the County Executive's appointment of The Very Rev. Canon Michael T. Sniffen to the Commission on Human Rights
Dept Head: Bruce Blakeman	
Dept Contact: Chris Leimone	
Dept Head Signature:	

Internal Approvals

County Executive/Deputy:	County Attorney: KGH
Budget:	Legislative Affairs: CGL

Purpose: This resolution appoints The Very Rev. Canon Michael T. Sniffen, Ph.D. to the Commission on Human Rights to replace current holdover Rev. Iwy Patel Yatri for a term ending June 30, 2028.
Discussion: Legislative confirmation is required by Charter § 203 and Nassau County Administrative Code § 21-9.1.
Impact on Funding: None.
Recommendation: Approve as submitted.

RECEIVED
NASSAU COUNTY
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
2026 JUN 12 P 11:53



County of Nassau Inter-Departmental Memo

To: Clerk of the County Legislature
From: County Attorney
Date: June 11, 2026
Subject: RESOLUTION - ORIG. DEPT. – County Executive

A RESOLUTION to confirm the County Executive's appointment of The Very Rev. Canon Michael T. Sniffen, Ph.D. to the Nassau County Commission on Human Rights.

The above-described document attached hereto is forwarded for your review and approval and subsequent transmittal to the County Legislature for inclusion upon its calendar.

THOMAS A. ADAMS
County Attorney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Hardiman", written over a horizontal line.

By: Kevin Hardiman
Deputy County Attorney

Attachments

RESOLUTION NO. – 2026

**A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE’S
APPOINTMENT OF THE VERY REV. CANON MICHAEL T. SNIFFEN, PH.D. TO THE
NASSAU COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

APPROVED AS TO FORM



Deputy County Attorney

WHEREAS, the Honorable Bruce A. Blakeman, County Executive, has transmitted to this Legislature written notification of the appointment of The Very Rev. Canon Michael T. Sniffen, Ph.D. to the Nassau County Commission on Human Rights to replace current holdover Rev. Iwy Patel Yatri for a term ending June 30, 2028, pursuant to section 203 of the Nassau County Charter, section 21-9.1 of the Nassau County Administrative Code, and section 239-o of the New York General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, such appointment is subject to confirmation by this Legislature; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the appointment of The Very Rev. Canon Michael T. Sniffen, Ph.D. to the Nassau County Commission on Human Rights to replace current holdover Rev. Iwy Patel Yatri for a term ending June 30, 2028, be, and the same is hereby confirmed, effective immediately; and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L. section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that this appointment is a “Type II” Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(26) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R. (“routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment”), and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.

BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN
County Executive



**COUNTY OF NASSAU
OFFICE OF THE NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE
1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York 11501**

**APPOINTMENT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SUBJECT
TO CONFIRMATION BY THE LEGISLATURE**

June 11, 2026

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE
MINEOLA, NY 11501

HONORABLE LEGISLATORS:

PLEASE BE ADVISED, I hereby appoint The Very Rev. Canon Michael T. Sniffen, Ph.D. to the Nassau County Commission on Human Rights to replace current holdover Rev. Iwy Patel Yatri for a term ending June 30, 2028, pursuant to section 203 of the Nassau County Charter, section 21-9.1 of the Nassau County Administrative Code, and section 239-o of the New York General Municipal Law, effective immediately upon confirmation by the Nassau County Legislature. The Very Rev. Canon Michael T. Sniffen's resume is attached for your consideration. Confirmation of this appointment by the County Legislature is hereby respectfully requested.

Very truly yours,

Bruce A. Blakeman
County Executive
Nassau County

Attachments


ARTHUR T. WALSH
Chief Deputy County Executive

The Very Rev. Canon Michael T. Sniffen, PhD

Pastor, Priest, Teacher, Vowed Member of the Community of the Incarnation

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Drew Theological School, Homiletics/Liturgical Studies (2019)
- M.Phil., Drew Theological School, Comprehensive Exams: Cranmer, Medieval Liturgy, Ritual Theory, Formation and Ordination in the Anglican Tradition (2015)
Language Proficiencies for Academic Translation: French, Latin
- M.Div., Drew Theological School, Magna Cum Laude (2005)
- B.A., West Virginia Wesleyan College, Magna Cum Laude (2002)
Major: Religious Studies; Minors: Greek, Vocal Performance
- Course of Study, New College, Oxford University, UK (2000–2001)
Tutorials: Anglican Reformations, Greek Exegesis
- Regents Diploma, Locust Valley High School, Long Island, NY (1998)

SELECTED CHURCH GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

- President, Board of Directors, Center for Spiritual Imagination (2024-Present)
- Vice President, Board of Directors, Mercer School of Theology (2024-Present)
- Dean, Cathedral Chapter, Long Island (2015-Present)
- Trustee, Stewart Historic Buildings Fund (2015-Present)
- Trustee, Cornelia Clinch Stewart Scholarship Fund (2015-Present)
- Diocesan Covid-19 Response Task Force, Long Island (2020-2022)
- Co-Founder, Community of the Incarnation (2021)
- Co-Founder, Center for Spiritual Imagination (2020)
- Diocesan Title IV Intake Officer, Long Island (2017)
- Diocesan Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission, Long Island (2017)
- Vice President, Board of Directors, Camp DeWolfe (2013-2016)
- Diocesan Commission for Strategic Visioning, Long Island (2012-2013)
- Vice President, Board of Directors, Episcopal Response to AIDS (2009-2015)
- Liturgist, Integrity Convention Eucharist, General Convention (2009-2015)
- Bishop's Consecration Planning Committee, Diocese of Newark (2007)
- Christian Formation Commission, Diocese of Newark (2006)
- Commission on Liturgy, Diocese of Newark (2005-2006)

PASTORAL MINISTRY POSITIONS

- Dean of Vowed Members, Community of the Incarnation (2023-Present)
- Dean, Cathedral of the Incarnation, Long Island (2015-Present)
- Priest-in-Charge (concurrent), Christ Church, Garden City (2018-Present)
- Dean, Central Nassau Deanery, Long Island (2015-Present)
- PIC then Rector, The Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew, Brooklyn (2010-2015)
- Priest-in-Charge (concurrent), Church of The Redeemer, Brooklyn (2012-2014)
- Assistant Rector, St. John's of Lattingtown, Locust Valley, NY (2007-2010)
- Assistant to the Rector, St. Peter's, Essex Fells, NJ (2006-2007)
- Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, St. Peter's Mountain Lakes, NJ (2005-2006)

The Very Rev. Canon Michael T. Sniffen, PhD

NONPROFIT BOARD LEADERSHIP AND AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Marines' Memorial Foundation, San Francisco, CA (2024-Present)
- Chaplain of the Fleet, Trustee, Seawanhaka Corinthian YC (2013-2015) (2021-Present)
- Director, Operation Democracy, Locust Valley, NY/ Sainte-Mère-Église FRA (2014-2024)
- Board of Directors, RotaCare Incorporated, Hempstead, New York (2020-2023)
- Board of Directors, Garden City Foundation, New York (2017-2023)
- Racial Justice Advisory Council, Brooklyn Community Foundation (2014-2020)
- Brooklyn Borough President's Council on Faith Based Partnerships (2014-2016)
- Nursing Advisory Council, St. Joseph's College, Brooklyn, NY (2013-2015)
- CPE Supervisor Search Committee, Overlook Hospital, Summit, NJ (2006)

CHAPLAINCY EXPERIENCE

- Command Chaplain, Empire Battalion, 4th Marine Division, USMC, Brooklyn, NY (2024-Present)
- Chaplain, Marine Corps Integrated Training Exercise, 29 Palms, CA (2025)
- Chaplain, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, CA (2023)
- Tactical Chaplain, 6th Communications Battalion, USMC, Brooklyn, NY (2022-2024)
- Chaplain, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY (2016-2022)
- Chaplain, 70th and 75th Anniversaries of D-Day, Normandy, FRA (2014, 2019)
- Chaplain to Integrity USA, General Convention of the Episcopal Church (2009-2015)
- Lambeth Conference Steward, Canterbury/London, UK (2008)

SELECTED ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Clergy Conference Keynote, Preacher, and Retreat Leader, "Spiritual Imagination in the Anglican Tradition," Diocese of Belize, CPWI (2025)
- Clergy Conference Keynote, Preacher and Retreat Leader, "Transformational Preaching," Diocese of Albany (2024)
- Founder and First Dean, Cathedral College, Garden City, NY (2024)
- Adjunct Professor of Preaching, Codrington College, Barbados, CPWI (2024-present)
- Keynote Lecturer, "The Spirituality of the City," St. Michael's Centre for Faith and Action, Bridgetown, Barbados, CPWI (2023)
- Member, American Academy of Religion (2022-Present)
- Speaker, "Integral Justice in a Global Era of Economic Polarization and Ecological Collapse," Parliament of World Religions, Toronto, CAN (2018)
- Tipple-Vosburgh Lecturer, "Faith, Science, and the Church's Voice," Madison, NJ (2014)
- Adjunct Professor of Worship/Preaching, Drew University (2013, 2015, 2019-present)
- Teaching Assistant to the Rev. Dr. Gary Simpson, Homiletics, Drew University, NJ (2008-2011)
- Visiting Member, Academy of Homiletics (2010-2016)
- Visiting Member, North American Academy of Liturgy, Eucharistic Working Group (2008-2012)
- Guest Lecturer in Emergent Worship, The General Seminary, NY (2008)
- Guest Lecturer in Liturgy and Improvisation, Union Theological Seminary, NY (2008)
- Adjunct Professor, "Prayer, God and the Body," Drew University, NJ (2008)
- Convener, Liturgical Studies, Graduate Division of Religion, Drew University, NJ (2007-2008)
- Fellow, Episcopal Preaching Excellence Program, Villanova, PA (2005)

The Very Rev. Canon Michael T. Sniffen, PhD

- Vice President, Theological Student Association, Drew Theological School (2004-2005)
- Founding Member, Diversity Training Committee, Drew University (2004-2005)
- University Senator, Drew University (2003-2005)
- Admissions Director Search Committee, Drew Theological School (2003)
- Admissions Committee, Drew Theological School (2003-2004)
- Treasurer, Drew Community for Social Justice, Drew University (2003-2004)

SELECTED COMMUNITY AND ACADEMIC HONORS

- Honorary Canon, Cathedral of the Incarnation, Long Island (2024)
- Candidate, Bishop for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, the Episcopal Church (2023)
- Frederick Buechner Award for Excellence in Preaching (2019)
- Community Service Leadership Award, Garden City Chamber of Commerce (2017)
- Commendation for Community Service, Nassau County Executive (2015)
- Commendation for Faith Leadership, New York City Public Advocate (2015)
- Commendation for Disaster Relief, New York City Council (2015)
- Tribute by Congressman Edolphus Towns, United States House of Representatives (2012)
- Full Doctoral Fellowship, Graduate Division of Religion, Drew University (2007-2014)
- Henry Luce Fellowship, Center for Christianity in Global Contexts (2010-2011)
- Deans Scholar, St. George's College, Jerusalem (2007)
- John Heston Willey Prize for Excellence in Pulpit Oratory and Manner (2005)
- David H.C. Read Preacher-Scholar Award Nominee (2005)
- McDaniel Delaplaine Leadership Scholarship (2004-2005)
- Myers Award for Excellence in Preaching (2004-2005)

MILITARY HONORS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Lieutenant Commander Select (2025)
- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2024)
- Professional Naval Chaplaincy Certification (2023)
- Marine Corps Certificate of Commendation (2023)
- Outstanding Voluntary Service Medal (2022)
- National Defense Service Medal (2022)
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (2022)
- Officer Development School Graduate (2022)

The Very Rev. Canon Michael T. Sniffen, PhD

BIO

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael T. Sniffen serves as Dean of Long Island, leading both the Cathedral of the Incarnation and the Mercer School of Theology in Garden City, New York. He is a vowed member of the Community of the Incarnation and serves in the United States Navy as Command Chaplain of the Empire Battalion, 4th Marine Division, U.S. Marine Corps.

Ordained in 2007, Dean Sniffen has served congregations in New Jersey and New York, most recently in Brooklyn and Garden City. He holds a B.A., Magna Cum Laude, from West Virginia Wesleyan College, and M.Phil., M.Div., and Ph.D. degrees from Drew University.

Dean Sniffen's ministry has been recognized by Congress, the City of New York, and Nassau County for its impact on the public good. While Rector of St. Luke and St. Matthew in Brooklyn, he coordinated a major disaster relief effort following Hurricane Sandy, mobilizing thousands of college students and residents to serve neighbors in need. The Department of Homeland Security recognized the initiative as one of the most effective grassroots relief efforts in U.S. history. He has appeared on NBC, CBS, PBS, and FOX News, speaking about the power of faith and community organizing in response to climate disasters.

His leadership has been honored with awards in pulpit oratory and manner, community achievement, pastoral leadership, and innovative ministry. A steward of the 2008 Lambeth Conference in London and Canterbury, he has also been recognized with a Luce Fellowship at the Center for Christianity in Global Contexts. In 2022, he received the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dean Sniffen has served on numerous boards and commissions including the Garden City Foundation, the Racial Justice Advisory Council of the Brooklyn Community Foundation, and the Brooklyn Borough President's Council on Faith-Based Partnerships. A sought-after speaker and preacher, he regularly addresses religion and spiritual development as integral aspects of the human experience.

Since 2015, Dean Sniffen has led a visionary expansion of cathedral ministry on Long Island including the renovation, restoration, and acquisition of numerous historic buildings. He has initiated new community ministry partnerships in the Nassau County Correctional Center, on the campus of Adelphi University, and on the streets of Hempstead. He co-founded the Center for Spiritual Imagination, now a leading voice in the contemplative Christian movement. In his academic work, he teaches preaching as a transformational, embodied practice. He is currently teaching an advanced seminar entitled "*Preaching in a Divisive Age*" in which he guides seminarians through an exploration of the relationship between Christian contemplation and spiritual resilience in the life of the preacher.

Avid sailors and runners, Dean Sniffen and his wife, Joanna, live on the Cathedral Close in Garden City with their two Whippets, Huck and Burleigh.