

**SIELA A. BYNOE**

**Legislator, District 2**



**NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

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**Committees:**  
**Ranking Member:**  
Finance  
Minority Affairs

**Member:**  
Public Safety  
Health and Social Services  
Government Services and Operations  
Economic & Community Development and Labor

May 17, 2017

Hon. Edward P. Mangano  
County Executive  
Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, NY 11501

**Re: Implementation of New York State's Raise the Age Legislation**

Dear County Executive Mangano:

Last month, Governor Cuomo signed the Raise the Age bill into law, thus raising the age of criminal responsibility to eighteen years old in New York State. The new law includes significant changes that will be phased-in beginning on October 6, 2017 through January 1, 2020. The changes include a new record sealing request provision for anyone convicted in adult criminal court of certain "eligible offenses", the adjudicating misdemeanor cases in Family Court, creation of a "Youth Part" within adult Criminal Court, phasing out detention of juveniles in county jail, and the creation of specialized secure juvenile detention facilities for adolescent offenders. The changes will involve numerous departments and agencies within County government and the courts that will require considerable time and effort to properly implement. Thus, I ask you to follow Gov. Cuomo's lead by creating a Raise the Age task force that will develop a step-by-step implementation plan for the new requirements as well as conduct a study and report to the county executive and the legislature regarding the impact of the law on an ongoing basis.

I believe that the task force should be a bipartisan effort. The members of the Nassau County task force should be appointed by the county executive and the legislature, comprised of representatives from departments that will be effected by and responsible for carrying out the new law including but not limited to the District Attorney's Office, Family Court, Police Department, Probation, Correctional Center, Social Services, Human Services, and the Office Management and Budget ("OMB"). The composition of the task force should also include stakeholders from the community who demonstrate a skills and experience in the juvenile justice process and social services.

Bringing together highly-qualified individuals to carry out the specific task of ensuring that County resources are used in the most effective matter to effectuate the new law is imperative. From a fiscal standpoint, the task force must be responsible for developing a multi-year financial impact analysis for all County departments that will be affected by the new law. Furthermore, it would be prudent to have the OMB task force member act as a liaison with that respective department to

expedite the analysis. It is also advisable to have the task force compile a list of all County contracts with social service organizations that provide programs directed to juveniles and other minors that may be considered at-risk youth. By creating an 'inventory' of providers and services offered such as mental health, drug treatment, and family intervention, the task force can assess placement and outreach options, make recommendations to augment services currently in place, and ensure that juveniles are placed in the appropriate program, thereby reducing recidivism rates and creating safer communities.

According to the Official Summary of the 2017 Raise the Age reform bill, the following is a list of effective dates for the phase-in provisions:

- Sealing Provisions: 180 days after enactment: October 6, 2017.
- Raise the age for 16-year-olds: October 1, 2018.
- Raise the age for 17-year-olds: October 1, 2019.
- Sections related to state reimbursement to the counties for probation are effective April 1, 2018.
- Sections related to reimbursement for detention and alternative to detention are effective October 1, 2018.
- Elimination of state support for detained PINS will start January 1, 2020.

Considering that we are less than five months from the effective date of the first phase-in provision, it is essential to create a Raise the Age task force immediately to ensure that all county agencies are fully apprised and prepared to carry out all of the requirements within the law's stringent timetable. Furthermore, by requiring the task force to study these changes and present reports to the county executive and legislature on an ongoing basis will be an invaluable tool to evaluate the effectiveness of this juvenile justice reform measure.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss my recommendations with you.

Sincerely,



Siela A. Bynoe  
Legislative District 2

CC: Nassau County Legislators