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Counties to track coronavirus impact on business

Officials aim to quantify, report and recoup economic losses across all industries in the region

By ADINA GENN

Both Nassau and Suffolk counties will track the impact of lost revenues due to coronavirus in the region. With this strategy, officials aim to quantify to the federal government the funds needed to recoup losses across all industries in the region.

For this initiative, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran announced Tuesday an economic advisory council comprising Long Island business and labor leaders.

And Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone spoke with local business leaders and stakeholders in a conference call Tuesday to identify employer concerns

and needs. The county's Department of Economic Development and Planning is working with its Department of Labor, Licensing and Consumer Affairs to develop a business response plan. It will also collect data from the private sector in tracking losses.

Meanwhile, Nassau is partnering with Hofstra University to tally lost revenues and expenses as well as the multiplier effect of these economic losses. The university would collect data from all businesses, whether they are large or small, and across all impacted sectors, including hotels, restaurants, bars, entertainment and more.

The advisory council would implement

that data to provide a report to elected officials and the federal government.

"Our goal is to advocate for the relief that our families and local economy will need," Curran said in a statement.

"Even as health and safety take top priority, we know significant economic impacts are already hitting our businesses and residents," Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman said in a statement.

"This region has faced a variety of crises that impacted both public and economic safety: from 9/11 to Superstorm Sandy and now COVID-19," he added. "We now must again come together to act, capture the data on impacts, and plan for the economic recovery needs ahead."

And in Suffolk, the county is putting together a working group of stakeholders with representation from numerous industry sectors and business groups. Suffolk plans to address current and evolving needs, which vary depending on the size and scope of the business — while simultaneously building a response and post-event recovery plan. The plan aims to provide information that would assist employers in responding to this event and who have incurred economic hardship as a result of the coronavirus.

Suffolk officials also said the county would create a real-time dashboard to provide information to the county's Department of Economic Development



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and Planning to determine the needs of local businesses and which specific types of resources to advocate for at the federal and state levels.

And later this week, Suffolk will launch a business recovery unit to address concerns and questions of business owners.

Those on the Nassau advisory panel said that action is needed.

“When COVID 19 has receded and its health care legacy is but a distant, disturbing memory we will still be dealing with the aftershock of its economic impact,” Kyle Strober, executive director of the Association for a Better Long Island, said in a statement.

“The county through its purchasing, procurement and legislative powers can stimulate the county’s economy to ensure a sustained commercial tax base and the continued employment of our greatest resource, our talented and dedicated workforce,” John Cameron, Jr., chairman of the Long Island Regional Planning Council, said in a statement.

“Both the healthcare system and the local economy will take some time to recover,” Kevin Dahill, president and CEO of Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, said in a statement. “As the largest employers and the source of much of Long Island’s job growth for the last decade, hospitals are pleased to play a role in the returning the communities they serve to good health.”

“This is an unprecedented challenge that we are facing. I cannot forget our past challenges. We have been through 9/11, H1N1 virus, Hurricane Sandy and many



Photo courtesy of Nassau County Executive Laura Curran/Facebook

LAURA CURRAN, the county executive for Nassau, announced an economic advisory council comprising Long Island business and labor leaders.

others,” Richard Monti, CEO of Crest Hollow Country Club, said in a statement. “All of these challenges made us stronger. What we are dealing with needs our same strength, but it is extremely different. It’s fast moving and the response from Washington needs to be just as fast.”

Additional members of Nassau’s new

advisory council include Stu Rabinowitz of Hofstra University (coordinator of Data for Council); John Durso, Long Island Federation of Labor – AFL-CIO, Wayne Grosse, Bethpage Federal Credit Union; Kevin Law, Long Island Association. Phil Andrews, Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce; Kristen Jarnagin,

Discover Long Island; Dennis Grossman, Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce; Richard Kessel, Nassau County IDA; Zeeshan Hamid, New York South Asian Chamber; Charles Chan, business owner; and Luis Vasquez, Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

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