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September 8, 2020

Sandy A. Schermeyer
Southampton Town Clerk
townclerk@southamptontownny.gov

Re: Resolutions 2020-759 and 2020-760

Dear Ms. Schermeyer,

On behalf of the Preservation League of New York State, I write in support of Resolutions 2020-759 and 2020-760. I applaud the initiative Southampton is undertaking with regard to resolution 2020-759 to address the preservation of unmarked burial and gravesites. Addressing such an important issue on the local level, particularly in matters where the state may be lagging, is nothing short of admirable. While the benefits of such resolution are far-reaching, the protection of the Shinnecock Nation Tribe ancestral history is incredibly meaningful to protect our shared history.

Likewise, resolution 2020-760, the Shinnecock Hills Moratorium, is an ideal step in further protecting the historic and cultural past of Southampton. Moratoriums have proven quite effective in situations where the goals of which are clearly defined, as with Southampton’s proposed resolution to review current laws and ensure that human remains and associated funerary artifacts remain undisturbed to the greatest extent possible.

Preservation has long sought to identify and protect sites deeply rooted in our history and those affiliated with diverse cultural groups, particularly those that have historically been marginalized. I applaud the town of Southampton for recognizing and protecting the spiritual, cultural, and historical significance of its landscapes.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jay DiLorenzo
President