Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Mazzei Announce Quality of Life Task Force Action in Holtsville

Town condemns litter-strewn house with over a dozen animals for unsanitary conditions

Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Tim Mazzei have announced a Quality of Life Task Force action that occurred on Sunday, March 20 at a residence located at 5482 Expressway Drive, South in Holtsville. The action was executed after Town Fire Marshalls were contacted by the Suffolk County SPCA and advised of a situation concerning animal hoarding. Quality of Life Task Force investigators, Public Safety and Animal Shelter personnel and members of the Building Department were dispatched to the scene.

"The conditions at this property are deplorable," said Supervisor Lesko. "The health and safety of our residents is the number one concern of the Town and the Quality of Life Task Force and we will continue our aggressive efforts to prosecute those who violate our codes."

Councilman Tim Mazzei, who represents the district where the house is located said, "Our Quality of Life Task Force has proven time and again that they can make a positive impact on neighborhoods across Brookhaven Town. I thank them for their commitment to improving the quality of life in Brookhaven and support their efforts one hundred percent."

The residence, which was a non-owner occupied, two bedroom house, was found to be covered in animal feces and a substantial amount of mold was found in the bathroom. The home was without an active smoke detector or an active carbon monoxide detector and contained 13 cats and 1 dog, which was found to be in poor health and impounded by the SPCA for eventual turn-over to the Brookhaven Animal Shelter. The cats were not removed from the location, but were being brought food and water by Animal Shelter personnel. The Town's Building Department condemned the structure for unsanitary conditions and mold. The exterior property also contained litter, debris and a large amount of tires.

Task Force investigators issued two appearance tickets, one for litter and one for outdoor storage of tires, to both the owner and occupant of the house. The court date is set for May 26th 2011. The Town Building Department will also be issuing tickets for lack of smoke detectors, failure to submit a rental registration, and unsanitary conditions.

Supervisor Lesko established the Quality of Life Task Force in June of 2009 to aggressively enforce the Town code to eliminate blight in neighborhoods and shutdown suburban slumlords. From June 2009 through December 2009, fines levied on code violations increased by 170% compared to the same time period in 2008. In 2010, the Quality
of Life Task Force continued its success. Compared to 2009, fines levied in 2010 nearly doubled to almost $1 million. Fines are levied through tickets issued to property owners with properties that have seriously unsafe or hazardous conditions.

If residents believe that a property is in violation of any Town of Brookhaven codes, they can call 451-TOWN to file a complaint.

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