Farmingville, NY - On June 8, Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Tim Mazzei were present to oversee the emergency demolition of a condemned house located at 14 Buffin Lane in Blue Point. The action was the result of a coordinated effort by the Town's Quality of Life Task Force, Building Department and Department of Waste Management. The house had been deemed unsafe by the Town of Brookhaven and considered an imminent threat to the community. This demolition was part of a multi-district effort to help eradicate blight throughout Brookhaven Town. Other properties targeted by the Quality of Life Task Force include:

- An old farm house on South Street in Manorville that is in danger of collapse and is scheduled for demolition on Friday, June 10.
- A garage/storage building on Station Road in Bellport that has been declared unsafe by the Town.
- Centereach Beverage, which was demolished by the owner in May.
- The closed down Bellport Outlet Center, where 21 manhole covers were stolen and the Town replaced them with concrete cesspool covers.

"Demolishing this blighted property immediately improves the quality of life in the neighborhood," said Supervisor Lesko. "Abandoned houses like this one are a danger to the community and drive down the value of the other homes in the area. Thanks to our Quality of Life Task Force, Building Department and Department of Waste Management, we have helped to make this area safe again for the residents. We will continue our efforts to enforce the law in order to remove residential blight throughout Brookhaven town."

"This dangerous eyesore has been a detriment to the neighborhood for too many years and I am thankful to the Quality of Life Task Force for spearheading this effort and the Building Department and Department of Waste Management for their roles in making this happen." said Councilman Tim Mazzei. "The Town's action here has already made an impact on the people who live nearby who don't have to deal with this blight anymore."

Over the past six years, the Town had issued numerous violations and ordered the property owner to demolish the already collapsing structure at Buffin Lane. The property owner recently asked that the Town handle the demolition and the Town worked with a contractor to tear the house down. The Town will charge back the cost of $15,500 to the property owner's tax bill. The removal of the debris and transportation of the debris to the Town's Landfill was handled by the Department of Waste Management. That cost, including man hours, will be determined at a later date and will also go on the property owner's tax bill.

Supervisor Lesko established the Quality of Life Task Force in June of 2009 to aggressively enforce the Town code,
eliminate blight in neighborhoods, shutdown suburban slumlords, and prosecute serial offenders. 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.