Farmingville, NY – On October 3, Town of Brookhaven Law Department Investigators received a tip from a Stony Brook resident who reported that a single family home was being converted into an illegal rooming house. Upon arriving at 100 University Heights Drive, the investigators observed a construction crew converting the front living room into two bedrooms (pictured at left). Further investigation revealed that a den had already been split down the middle and converted into two bedrooms (pictured at right), and the basement was recently finished into illegal living space. It also appeared that the garage was ready to be converted.

Law Investigators issued Misdemeanor Appearance tickets for the conversions upstairs and in the basement, along with a tall grass ticket. The property owners, who live in Saint James, will be served shortly, as they were not on site at the time of the investigation. The house had three legal bedrooms and four were being illegally constructed, to make seven bedrooms total, plus the basement.

“I applaud the resident who reported this illegal renovation and our Law Investigators who took swift action to stop it,” said Supervisor Ed Romaine. “The quality of life in communities across the Town is threatened by illegal multi-family conversions, but none have felt it more than the Stony Brook area. We will continue to crack down on unscrupulous landlords and I ask residents to be vigilant and report illegal activity in their neighborhood.”

In 2013, Supervisor Ed Romaine launched a mobile phone app to be used by residents as a weapon against illegal multi-family housing and other housing violations. Brookhaven Town’s mobile phone app, which was the first of its kind on Long Island, allows residents to immediately report housing and property violations as they see them, helping to increase enforcement of housing codes within our communities. The app is available for both Apple iPhones and Android mobile phones and has simple fill-in fields, drop down menus of violations and automated e-mail.

To download the mobile app, residents must visit the Town’s website at www.brookhaven.org from a mobile device. A pop up window will appear asking if they want to install the app. By clicking “yes,” they are directed to the marketplace where the app can be downloaded. It’s easy and takes only seconds to complete the download.