Supervisor Lesko and the Town Board declare entire Brookhaven Town a Recovery Zone

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Farmingville, NY - On Tuesday, February 9, 2010, at the Town of Brookhaven's town board meeting, the board voted unanimously to designate the entire town a recovery zone for the purposes of Recovery Zone Private Facility Bonds. The designation will enhance the town's ability to receive qualifying private applications for the town's nearly $28 million of Recovery Zone Private Facility Bonds, which are tax-exempt bonds created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (otherwise known as the federal stimulus).

"By designating the entire town as a recovery zone, the town has more opportunity for financing projects that will create jobs and address suburban blight," said Supervisor Mark Lesko.

Lesko added, "Brookhaven has tremendous potential to redevelop blighted properties to make our town the best place on Long Island to live, work, play, and especially to create jobs. These bonds provide an incentive to businesses to partner with government and breathe new life into the local economy."

Because the entire town is a recovery zone, a wider variety of commercial projects can be considered for the private facility bonds. This also addresses the reality that, while a resident may live in one part of the town, it is very likely that they could work in another.

"Recovery bonds leverage private-sector funding to create jobs and grow business in Brookhaven," Congressman Tim Bishop said, "By investing in small businesses; we're expanding Brookhaven's commercial tax-base and creating jobs."

These bonds can be used to finance almost any commercial use, even "smart growth" mixed-use developments that include residential rentals as long as at least 20% of the development's income is derived from non-residential, commercial uses.

"Priority will be given to projects that will have a shovel in the ground quickly and are located in our Empire Zones. We will give more weight to applicants with commercial uses that will revitalize blighted areas," Supervisor Lesko stated, "The Town will also commit that approved projects will be fast-tracked through the Planning Department."

In order to be approved for these bonds, businesses need to schedule a meeting with the Town of Brookhaven's Office of Economic Development as soon as possible to obtain an application. The application will be reviewed, and the Town of Brookhaven's Industrial Development Agency will make the determination regarding which commercial projects will receive the bonds, and how much of the $27,870,000 will be devoted to a particular project. As required by statute, the bonds must be allocated by December 31, 2010, but the Town of Brookhaven has committed to get projects approved as quickly as possible. In the past, some deals have closed with Industrial Development Agency within 45 days of the submission of application.

If a business would like to make an appointment to receive an application, they may call Lisa Giannusa, Director of Economic Development, at (631) 451-6563.

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