Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld Sign Agreement with Long Island Music Hall of Fame for New Home in Port Jefferson
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Pictured at the press conference are Supervisor Mark Lesko, Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld (back row 4th and 5th from left), Port Jefferson Mayor Margot Garant (front row left), Long Island Music Hall of Fame Chairman and CEO Jim Faith (at podium), board members and inductees.

Farmingville, NY - On August 11, Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld held a press conference with board members of Long Island Music Hall of Fame (LIMHOF) and Port Jefferson Mayor Margot Garant to sign a license agreement that allows the organization to operate a museum/education center devoted to the musical history of Long Island in the historic First National Bank Building (former Tax Receiver's Office) in Port Jefferson Village. This Town-owned building is located at 277 East Main Street in Port Jefferson Village. Also appearing at the press conference were LIMHOF inductees, including Pepe and Mickey Marchello from the legendary Long Island group, "Good Rats"; Carole & Paula from "The Magic Garden" television show; Vinnie Martel from the group "Vanilla Fudge"; famed music producer Johnny Juice and Herb Deutch, co-creator of the Moog synthesizer.

"Bringing the Long Island Music Hall of Fame to Brookhaven Town, right in the heart of Port Jefferson Village has been a long time in coming," said Supervisor Lesko. "I commend Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld for his persistent effort to get this agreement done and thank the Mayor and residents of Port Jefferson for their strong support. This will certainly become a popular destination for out of town visitors and local residents which will give a real boost to the local economy."

Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld stated, "I am thrilled that the Long Island Music Hall of Fame has finally found a home in Brookhaven in the wonderful village of Port Jefferson. What a brilliant setting LIMHOF will have for a museum in this circa 1900 landmark building which is a magnificent architectural treasure in the heart of Port Jefferson." He went on to say, "our island has such a rich musical history, Gershwin, Billy Joel, Guy Lombardo, Louie Armstrong just to name a few, putting LIMHOF's collection of musical memorabilia on display so that the next generation of Long Islanders can learn about this outstanding culture on Long Island is exceptional; one would be hard pressed to find a more appropriate place to open this museum. I thank Supervisor Lesko and the Town Board for their unanimous support in bringing this to fruition."

Port Jefferson Mayor Margot Garant said, "On behalf of the entire community of Port Jefferson, I am thrilled to have
the Long Island Music Hall of Fame as a year round cultural and educational destination. We are ready to stand side by side in partnership to further their endeavors and look forward to a prosperous future together."

Jim Faith, Chairman of the LIMHOF Board of Directors said, "On behalf of the LI Music Hall of Fame board of directors, we are excited to work in harmony with the Town of Brookhaven and Village of Port Jefferson to finally see our dream of a brick & mortar, Long Island Music Hall of Fame Museum, come to fruition. The many talented artists and musicians who have created our rich music history will finally have a home to preserve their legacy."

The process to locate the Long Island Music Hall of Fame in Port Jefferson was started in 2007 with talks between the Town, led by Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld, and the LIMHOF board of directors. The plan has the full support of the Village of Port Jefferson, its Business Improvement District, Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Port Jefferson Historical Society.

Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld has been working to restore the historic First National Bank Building (the former Tax Receiver’s Office) in Port Jefferson since having it designated by the Town as a historic landmark in 2005. It has since been placed on both the New York State and National Registry of Historic Structures. Working with the Supervisor, local historians and other interested members of the greater Port Jefferson community, a plan was developed and executed to restore the exterior of the building and to begin renovations on its interior for its eventual use as a museum/education center. Architectural consultants were hired by the Town to determine what work needed to be done to restore the building to its former beauty.

As a result, $250,000 was appropriated in the 2007 capital budget to restore the exterior portion of the building with more funding expected in the 2008 budget cycle. In 2009, the first phase of restoration work was completed after which the interior work begun. Damaged mortar was replaced, brick facing point work was done, white painted window moldings were painted a color that local historians chose as being closest to the original historic trim, and the 100 year-old bank doors were restored and returned to their original location.

The second phase of interior restoration completed by the Parks Department included asbestos abatement on the first floor and in the basement, mold remediation related to the removal of archived Town Tax Receiver documents, and interior painting, wiring and flooring.

The Long Island Music Hall of Fame is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, with New York State Education Chartered authority to educate and develop a museum. The License Agreement grants to the LIMHOF the ability to operate within this Town owned building for 15 years with an option for a 5 year extension. Given the public use, the not-for-profit education component and access to this building, the Town will only require a nominal $10.00 fee. LIMHOF will be responsible for all other operational expenses such as Executive Director, other staff salaries, utility costs, any additional capital building needs such as construction of exhibit and office spaces and any proposed musical training room. LIMHOF will also be responsible for any specialty equipment such as special electrical, humidity control, and special alarm system.
Pictured left to right are Long Island Music Hall of Fame Chairman and CEO Jim Faith, Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld.

Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld present the keys to the new home of the Long Island Music Hall of Fame to Chairman and CEO Jim Faith.

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