Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Mazzei Announce Completion of Parking Improvements at Raymour & Flanigan in Patchogue and Welcomes Shop Rite
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Raymour & Flanigan was a former "Blight to Light" site that was redeveloped and opened in January 2011

Shop Rite will be opening at the site in November 2011

Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Tim Mazzei announced the completion of parking improvements at Raymour & Flanigan in Patchogue and welcomed a Shop Rite store that is anticipated to open in November 2011. The property where Raymour & Flanigan is now located was identified by Supervisor Mark Lesko as a "monument to blight" in April 2010 and was formerly the location of a vacant, graffiti-ridden Home Depot.

Supervisor Lesko, Councilman Tim Mazzei, and Neil Goldberg, CEO of Raymour & Flanigan, presided over the groundbreaking ceremony.
groundbreaking of Raymour & Flanigan on May 3, 2010, and the store opened in January 2011. Shop Rite recently received a permit from the Building Department for build out of the interior and is scheduled to open in November 2011.

At the August 2, 2011 Town Board meeting, the Town Board approved a resolution that would release a cash security in the amount of $300,000 the Town was holding to Raymour & Flanigan on Route 112 in Patchogue to ensure improvements of the site.

"The Town welcomes Raymour & Flanigan and looks forward to the opening of Shop Rite, which replaced a decaying eyesore in the Patchogue community," said Supervisor Mark Lesko, "We look forward to continue working to turn blight into light throughout the Town."

"The new Raymour and Flanigan is a vast improvement over what stood on the site before," said Councilman Tim Mazzei, "By encouraging developers to clean up blighted properties and bring in new businesses, we not only enhance the community, we create much needed employment opportunities and help boost the local economy."

"At Raymour & Flanigan, we are proud to be a part of the Patchogue community. It is our company vision to enhance the furniture buying experience, and we are thrilled to have a beautiful showroom in a great location to serve area consumers," said Raymour & Flanigan's CEO, Neil Goldberg. "We are appreciative of all the support from Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Mazzei, and believe the Blight to Light initiative is a wonderful way to enrich the community, provide valuable products and services to consumers, and create jobs."

The Town held the cash security until Raymour & Flanigan completed the follow improvements:

- Landscaped the property;
- Created handicap stalls to meet ADA requirements;
- Removed and replaced asphalt on the parking lot;
- Restriped the parking lot;
- Repaired concrete curbs.

The Town typically holds bonds or cash security as an assurance that the requirements of any new project will be completed.

About Blight to Light

On April 26, 2010, Supervisor Lesko proposed the Blight to Light initiative to eradicate suburban blight in the Town of Brookhaven. Lesko and the Brookhaven Industrial Development Agency premiered a film, "Blight to Light", at Stony Brook University's Charles B. Wang Center, which for the first time ever portrays blight as opportunity. This site was one of the "monuments to blight" that Lesko highlighted. The Town of Brookhaven subsequently adopted incentives for redevelopment in the town as part of its code. For more information on blight to light, visit www.brookhaven.org and click on "Blight to Light" on the "In the Spotlight" section.

About Raymour & Flanigan

Raymour & Flanigan is a respected furniture retailer in the Northeast with 99 stores in seven states, including 89 showrooms and 10 Clearance Centers and over 4,000 Associates. Established in 1947, the company remains a family-owned business headquartered in Liverpool, New York and was named "2007 Newsmaker of the Year" by Home Furnishings Business. Raymour & Flanigan is now the seventh largest furniture and bedding retailer in the U.S. (ranked in industry trade publication Furniture Today May 26, 2009) and fifth fastest growing furniture retailer (Furniture Today June 8, 2009 issue).