August 11, 2011

Farmingville, NY - On August 10, 2011, Supervisor Mark Lesko attended the first New York State Regional Economic Development Council meeting, which took place in the Town of Brookhaven at Stony Brook University. Supervisor Lesko is an ex-officio member of the Council. The Long Island Regional Economic Development Council is one of ten around New York State organized by Governor Andrew Cuomo to develop an economic development vision and compete for millions of dollars in state grants. The Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy presided over the meeting along with the Long Island Economic Development Council Co-Chair Kevin Law.

"I commend Governor Cuomo for organizing this impressive group of Long Islanders and setting an aggressive timeframe for the development of a common Island-wide economic development strategy," said Supervisor Mark Lesko, "In the Town of Brookhaven, we have been focusing on projects like the Ronkonkoma hub transit-oriented development to attract young people and a talented workforce. We also worked with the Brookhaven Industrial Development Agency to stimulate the growth of start-up companies through Accelerate Long Island, which is being implemented by the Long Island Association. If we create more jobs, our tax base will expand and property taxes will decrease."

Supervisor Mark Lesko's economic development priorities in the Town of Brookhaven include the redevelopment of blighted properties through the "Blight to Light" incentive program, the creation of a transit-oriented downtown around the Ronkonkoma Train Station, the busiest train station on the Long Island Rail Road, and connecting research conducted at Long Island's premiere institutions with entrepreneurs to create high tech jobs.