Kepert Passes Anti-Graffiti Legislation
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Resolution Would Reduce Time to Remove Graffiti from Commercial Structures From 14 days to 5 days

Farmingville, NY - Councilwoman Connie Kepert successfully moved forward legislation that will result in graffiti being removed from businesses faster. The legislation reduces the amount of time local business owners have to remove graffiti from their businesses from 14 days to 5 days. Keep America Beautiful, which compiles studies on how to reduce blight such as litter and graffiti states that the sooner graffiti is removed, the less likely it is that the business will be hit again. Data shows that removal within 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of recurrence. "The best way to prevent graffiti is to remove it as fast as possible," said Councilwoman Kepert.

It is estimated that graffiti mitigation costs the Town of Brookhaven close to $200,000 per year to clean up. Graffiti vandalism costs the entire nation more than $8 billion a year to clean up. That cost does not include the negative visual impacts graffiti vandalism has on neighborhoods, cities and towns across the country.

"If graffiti is allowed to remain, it sends the message that no one cares about a community, or neighborhood and becomes an open invitation for more graffiti, littering, and crime. Graffiti hurts property values and frightens away businesses," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

President of the Middle Island Civic Association Tom Talbot, who is also a member of the anti-graffiti task force added "Graffiti is visual litter and it has the same, if not higher negative impact on the pride and image of a community." Talbot continued, "These selfish acts by graffiti vandals cost Brookhaven businesses and residents thousands of dollars each year to restore the damaged properties."

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