Councilwoman Kepert Brings Security to Bellport Train Station
posted on 4/20/2010 2:53:43 PM

North Bellport, NY - On Wednesday at 2pm, Councilwoman Connie Kepert, Suffolk County Legislators Kate Browning and Jack Eddington as well as leaders of the Greater Bellport Coalition gathered at the Bellport train station to announce the recent installment of security cameras. The installation of the cameras comes hard on the heels of the shooting of Adam Willet, (who thankfully survived) a beloved neighborhood boxing star, was shot across the street from where the cameras will be installed.

"The need for these cameras is abundantly clear. The community appropriately asked for them when they came together and completed their visioning plan in early 2009 and I am pleased to work collectively with my colleagues in the county and with the community in the installation of these cameras. It is my hope that these cameras will assist our police officers in catching criminals while deterring future crimes from happening,” stated Councilwoman Kepert.

In March of 2007, Councilwoman Kepert demanded that Quality King pay a $75,000 fine to the Town of Brookhaven for building an illegal third story on to their building without proper town permits. The $75,000 was set aside to partially fund the implementation of the Greater Bellport Sustainable Community Plan.

When Miles Malone came to the Councilwoman with a plan to install cameras at the train station, Councilwoman Kepert knew the need was justified and worked with him by setting aside $15,000 of the $75,000 Quality King fine for the cameras. "These cameras are a step in achieving the goals that were set out in our visioning. The community made safety a high priority and these cameras will help to deliver that," stated Miles Malone, Vice Chair of the Central Bellport Civic Association.

Legislators Kate Browning and Jack Eddington also contributed to the overall cost of the cameras. "North Bellport has a long history of crime and gang violence," stated Browning. "This train station is a notorious hot spot for activity, which has prevented many members of the community from safely utilizing the area. The security these cameras bring is just the beginning of an overall vision to take back our streets from thugs, and provide a safe community for our children. I am proud to be working with Councilwoman Kepert and Legislator Eddington in this effort. I look forward to expanding our resources here and restoring this neighborhood to the calm and quiet community it once was."

"As the Chair of Public Safety I take great satisfaction in the fact that we finally have cameras up and running that will give people a greater sense of security when they use the Bellport Train Station. However, in the light of last week's shooting of Adam Willett, who heroically tried to protect a young woman being accosted just across the street, it is clear we have much more to do when it comes to keeping this community safe," said Leg. Jack Eddington.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor
One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258