Supervisor Lesko and Councilwoman Kepert Announce Town Board Action on Blighted Bellport Outlets
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**Town Board lifts restrictive covenant to pave the way for redevelopment**

**Farmingville, NY** - At the May 8th Town Board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to amend restrictions that allowed only factory outlet stores to operate at the vacant Bellport Outlet site. This will result in more redevelopment opportunities for the Bellport Outlets. The site, which is located on the Sunrise Highway South Service Road, is one of the ten "monuments of blight" that were targeted when Supervisor Lesko announced his "Blight to Light" initiative in April of 2009.

"This Town Board action will allow the property owner of the Bellport Outlets to explore redevelopment opportunities for the site. I thank Councilwoman Kepert for making the motion to lift the restrictive covenants, which had been on the Town Board's decision calendar for six years. This eyesore has been vacant for too long and I hope the property owner will use Blight to Light to replace it with new development that will create jobs and help stimulate our local economy," said Supervisor Mark Lesko.

Councilwoman Kepert was happy to move forward a resolution to lift the covenants on the former Bellport Outlet site, to encourage development of that site. The site has remained blighted and undeveloped for years. "The site is ripe for redevelopment, and job creation," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

The covenant that allowed only factory outlet stores was adopted by the Town Board in 2003. The new amendment allows for the property to include a wide range of retail, including apparel, craft and hobby, carpet and floor covering, hardware, furniture, party goods, pet supplies, a supermarket and more. The amendment also includes uses such as banking, office space, barber/beauty parlor and daycare.

Supervisor Lesko introduced the Blight to Light initiative to provide incentives for the redevelopment of vacant eyesores in Brookhaven communities. The Town partnered with the Industrial Development Agency to create an award-winning film, which can be viewed on www.brookhaven.org, which portrays blight as opportunity.

The Town has seen some recent successes with Blight to Light, including the demolition of the vacant and graffiti-ridden Plaza Theatre, a decaying eyesore in the community for nearly 25 years. Other Blight to Light projects include plans for a mixed-use redevelopment at the abandoned UA Theater in Coram by the Community Development Corporation and Conifer, the re-opening of Buckley's Irish Pub in Center Moriches in 2011, and the grand openings of the Raymour and Flanigan furniture store and Shop Rite supermarket, both located at the once blighted Home Depot property in Patchogue.

For more information on Blight to Light, visit www.brookhaven.org and click on Blight to Light in the "In the Spotlight" section.