Supervisor Lesko and Councilwoman Kepert Announce Quality of Life Task Force Action in Farmingville
posted on 6/1/2012 9:48:09 AM

May 31, 2012

**Town Law Department cracks down on alleged illegal rooming house occupied by 17 residents**

Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilwoman Connie Kepert have announced a Quality of Life Task Force action that occurred on May 17, 2012 at 4 Ridgedale Avenue in Farmingville. Law Department investigators executed a search warrant on the non-owner occupied, alleged illegal multi-family dwelling with the assistance of the Suffolk County Police 6th Precinct Crime Control Unit.

"The property owner put the health and safety of the occupants, and the entire neighborhood, in jeopardy," said Supervisor Lesko, "We will not tolerate such blatant disregard of our Town codes and will prosecute this violator to the fullest extent of the law. I commend our Quality of Life Task Force for another job well done."

Councilwoman Kepert said, "The quality of life for the hard working tax payers of the Town of Brookhaven must not be compromised by irresponsible actions of a few. I commend our Quality of Life Task force in the enforcement actions taken on the owner of this dwelling in the community of Farmingville. The message is simple; our codes must be complied with and if they are violated, as they have been in this case, there will be consequences."

Upon entering the dwelling, Quality of Life Task Force investigators saw what appeared to be an alleged, illegal rooming house with seven bedrooms that the owner rents out individually to 17 occupants. Three areas of the house also appeared to be illegally converted into bedrooms, many without smoke detectors and the egress doors and windows blocked. There were also four bedrooms and two bathrooms and an alleged illegal one bedroom apartment on the second floor occupied by a family of two.

Further investigation indicated that the Certificate of Occupancy was issued for a one story, three bedroom, one bathroom, single family dwelling and no building permit was found for the additional construction.

Law investigators wrote seven appearance tickets, including six misdemeanors and one violation that will be served to property owner. A court date scheduled for July 12, 2012 in Sixth District Court. The tickets issued include:

- No certificate of occupancy for the second floor (misdemeanor)
- No permit for the second floor (misdemeanor)
- No Certificate of Occupancy for the rooming house (misdemeanor)
- No smoke detectors in the bedrooms (misdemeanor)
- No permit for the second story deck (misdemeanor)
- No permit for the interior alterations throughout dwelling (misdemeanor)
- No permit for the accessory apartment (violation)

Supervisor Lesko established the Quality of Life Task Force to aggressively enforce the Town code, eliminate blight in neighborhood, and shutdown suburban slumlords. In the past three years, fines levied on code enforcement violations have increased by 332%. In 2011, the Town levied more than $1 million dollars in fines against serial offenders for the first time in its history. In addition, at the request of Supervisor Lesko and the Town Board, the New York State Office of Court Administration established the Brookhaven Community Court in 2010. It is a special court that is part of the Sixth District Court in Patchogue dedicated to handling proceedings alleging violations of Brookhaven Town ordinances and affecting the quality of life of local residents.

If residents believe that a property is in violation of any Town of Brookhaven codes, they can call 451-TOWN to file a complaint. To learn more about the Quality of Life Task Force, visit www.brookhaven.org.

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