Town Board Unanimously Passes Panico's Anti-Nepotism Law
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Farmingville, NY - At the June 1st board meeting, a public hearing was held for Councilman Daniel J. Panico's, anti-nepotism resolution to amend the "business practices" chapter of town code. This new local law is designed to address the employment, supervision, transfers or recommendation of the immediate family of elected and appointed town officials, regardless of time worked. The legislation impacts positions that are not subject to competitive examination, thus will not impact the status of civil service union employees. After a public vetting, the Town board subsequently passed the measure 7-0.

 "I commend the Town Board for supporting this important legislation. This legislation is an important step in promoting the public confidence, integrity and transparency of the hiring practices at Town Hall," commented Councilman Panico. "While the job titles that are not subject to competitive examination through New York State Civil Service law always need scrutiny, extra scrutiny is necessary when that position is going to be potentially filled by a family member of an elected or appointed official."

 "This law will provide transparency in the town hiring process that is on par with Suffolk County's," said Legislator Romaine. "I congratulate Councilman Panico and the town board for moving forward with this needed reform."

This law requires resolution approval by the Town Board for the hiring or promoting of the relatives of municipal officials who are assigned positions; civil servants are not subject to this requirement. Prior town practice lacked any specific oversight of hiring or other personnel decisions pertaining to relatives of officials. The new practice requires each and every employment decision pertaining to a relative of an elected or appointed official to be brought directly to the Town Board for consideration. The new Anti-Nepotism policy steers the Town of Brookhaven on a path toward greater openness and transparency, fostering public confidence for the integrity of municipal personnel practices.

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