July 27, 2012

Town of Brookhaven condemns sober home located at 4 Sunburst Lane in Bellport for bug infestation and unsafe conditions

Farmingville, NY - Yesterday morning the Town of Brookhaven's Quality of Life Task Force gained entrance into 4 Sunburst Lane in Bellport after being notified of a complaint from Councilwoman Kepert's office that the home was overcrowded and infested with roaches and bed bugs. At the time of the inspection there were 9 occupants in the home and a total of 18 beds. The burner room was also stocked with flammables and there were missing smoke detectors. As a result of the inspection the Town of Brookhaven condemned the home for infestation and having unsafe conditions. The Town's Law Department worked closely with Suffolk County Department of Social Services to ensure the occupants would be transferred to emergency housing.

"My message to landlords, who are only interested in collecting checks at the end of the month and show no respect for the tenants or surrounding community, is that this type of predatory behavior will not be tolerated in the Town of Brookhaven," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

Councilwoman Kepert's office was tipped off by Legislator Kate Browning's office who was informed by a tenant of the condition of the home. "Yesterday's condemnation of 4 Sunburst Lane in Bellport again brings to light the continuing struggle for local governments to overcome the absence of state regulation for subsidized housing," stated Legislator Kate Browning. "The joint effort between Suffolk County and Brookhaven Town to shudder this home is a positive step, but real change will not come without action from New York State. No one should have to live in these conditions, and taxpayer's should not be footing the bill. Enough is enough."

Residents of the North Bellport community feel the house has been a blight on the community and were pleased to see actions being taken, "It's really a beautiful neighborhood with a ton of kids, so it's disappointing to have a house like this in our community. I absolutely support the actions taken by the Town of Brookhaven," stated a neighbor Bonnie Meehan.
Pastor Bucknor of a local North Bellport Church stated, "This type of landlord drags the community down, I've seen responsible owners who take pride in the appearance of their homes become despondent as a result of these blighted homes."

The Town of Brookhaven's Quality of Life Task Force issued ten appearance tickets to the landlord.