April 25, 2013

Councilwoman Kepert speaks during the Operation Safe Stop event

Farmingville, NY - On Thursday, April 18, Councilwoman Connie Kepert attended the Operation Safe Stop event at Longwood High School where she joined with school officials, law enforcement officials, elected officials, and students from the Ridge Elementary School in reminding drivers not to pass stopped school buses with flashing red lights.

State law requires motorists to come to a full stop when they see a school bus stopped with flashing red lights which signify that children are exiting or entering the bus. Operation Safe Stop day is when local law enforcement officers crack down on "hot spots" where school bus drivers say they are frequently passed by motorists. About 50,000 motorists illegally pass stopped school buses each day and each year approximately 1,600 tickets are written.

"Before I became a teacher, I was a school bus driver, and I am, therefore, well aware that many motorists disobey State law and pass stopped school buses. Youngsters getting on and off of school buses are not always paying attention. It is therefore very important to remind motorists to stop when they see the flashing red lights. By working together, law enforcement, school officials and elected officials can improve the safety and welfare of our children. I want to thank Gale Winsper, Longwood's Transportation Coordinator, the children of Karen Marcello and Maria Brandi's classes for putting together this event as well as Longwood School District, and our Suffolk County law enforcement officials."

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