March 26, 2014

Farmingville, NY - Councilwoman Connie Kepert, along with Suffolk County Legislators Rob Calarco and Kate Browning, joined forces with the Suffolk County Police Department for a gun buyback this past Saturday at the Lighthouse Mission in North Bellport. By the end of the day 10 hand guns, 5 assault weapons and 30 high capacity clips were exchanged for cash cards.

"By encouraging people to turn in their illegal weapons through our no-questions-asked gun buyback program, we are working to take deadly firearms off the streets, out of circulation, and out of the wrong hands, thereby reducing future tragedies related to gun violence," said Councilwoman Kepert. "I want to extend my thanks to the Suffolk County Police Department for their continued support and assistance with this program."

"This is the second time we've hosted a buyback in the community and both times there has been an outpouring of support," stated Legislator Calarco. "Our goal is to take illegal guns off the streets. Too many people are killed every year in senseless gun violence and buybacks go a long way in removing those weapons from the hands of criminals."

"Reducing gun violence in our communities is by far the most important public safety priority," stated Legislator Kate Browning. "Gun buyback programs have proven successful in the past because of the ability to turn in fire arms with no questions asked. It’s a win-win for everyone. I want to thank the Suffolk County Police Department, Legislator Calarco and Councilwoman Kepert for their efforts towards making this an effective tool in reducing crime in the area."

"Through this program, illegal or unwanted guns are voluntarily surrendered by their owners, and are taken off the streets with no questions asked," said Supervisor Romaine. "Last year’s program was a phenomenal success, with more than 80 guns and magazine clips turned in, including two AK-47s, 20 revolvers, two pistols and several rifles."

"We thank the County, Town and Police Department for this event and for their continuing efforts to make our streets safer," stated John Rogers, President of the Greater Bellport Coalition.

Anyone interested in turning in their guns for cash, should contact Lieutenant Robert Donahue at 631-852-6530