Councilwoman Kepert to Declare March Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness Month
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Farmingville, NY - Carbon Monoxide poisoning is a serious threat to the public health. It is responsible for 500 deaths and 15,000 emergency room visits per annually within the United States. However, the good news is that Carbon Monoxide Poisoning is entirely preventable with the use of carbon monoxide monitors/detectors that include low-level digital read outs.

The detectors with low-level digital read outs are key in preventing carbon monoxide poisoning. Currently standard carbon monoxide alarms are triggered at 65 parts per million or higher, however individuals exposed to lower levels will get sick. In fact, the World Health Organization recommend levels no higher than 9 parts per million over an extended period of time to avoid psychological effects.

"In light of the recent tragic events at Legal Sea Foods in Huntington, it is important to increase awareness and education about the causes, effects, and prevention of carbon monoxide poisoning. I want to bring this vital public health issue to the forefront by designating the month of March as Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness Month in the Town of Brookhaven." said Councilwoman Connie Kepert. "I want to thank Neal Lewis from the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College for working to educate the public on this important health issue."

Neal Lewis, Executive Director, Sustainability Institute at Molloy College, who has spearheaded a campaign to bring awareness to the hazards of the toxic gas stated, "Carbon monoxide safety is important year-round, but during winter months when incidents of exposure increase, and considering the recent tragedy, we support Councilwoman Kepert and her effort to pass this resolution and take action against this potentially deadly threat."

Demosthenes Maratos, Program Director, Long Island Neighborhood Network, added, "Councilwoman Kepert's quick and timely work to pass this resolution are to be applauded. Carbon monoxide poisoning can strike at any time, and in view of the recent tragedy at Walt Whitman Mall, measures must be advanced to avoid further unnecessary loss of life."

Carbon monoxide is a toxic gas but, being colorless, odorless, tasteless, and initially non-irritating, it is not easily detected. Symptoms of poisoning include lightheadedness, confusion, headaches, and flu-like effects. Higher levels of exposure can lead to damage to the central nervous system, heart and potentially death. The resolution, declaring the month of March as Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness Month in the Town of Brookhaven, will come before the board at the March 4th 2014 Town Board Meeting.

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