Farmingville, NY - At the July 20 board meeting, The Brookhaven Town Board unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the "911 Good Samaritan" bill that was recently passed by the New York State Assembly. The Town resolution was sponsored by Deputy Supervisor & Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh. The bill, which was introduced in the Assembly by Senator Thomas Duane and Assemblyman Richard Gottfried and passed on July 1, seeks to encourage people to call 911 in the event of a suspected drug overdose. It prioritizes saving lives over arrests and creates an exemption from arrest, charge or prosecution for possession of small amounts of drugs when the victim or a witness of the overdose calls for medical assistance. It does not exempt those with outstanding warrants or those selling or in possession of large quantities of drugs.

"Many people won't call for help to save themselves or someone else who has overdosed for fear of getting arrested," said Deputy Supervisor & Councilwoman Walsh. "This bill can save lives by encouraging people to call emergency services immediately because for the victim of a drug overdose, every minute is crucial. The moment at which the EMS responds can often mean the difference between life and death."