Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Mazzei Announce Quality of Life Task Force Action in Medford

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Farmingville, NY - On July 28, the Brookhaven Town Quality of Life Task Force executed a search warrant at 104 Robinson Avenue in Medford with the Suffolk County Police Crime Control Unit (6th Precinct), a Federal Agent from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Unit, Several Town Investigators, a Town Building Inspector and a Fire Marshall. The Quality of Life Task Force obtained a search warrant after receiving complaints of a two story rooming house with a detached garage that was allegedly converted into an additional illegal dwelling. During the Search warrant, the owner of the property became violent and was arrested by the Suffolk County Police after assaulting one of its officers.

The owner was later questioned about the occupants in the main dwelling. It was learned that he was renting out rooms and collecting approximately $2100 in rent while he lived in the converted detached garage with two other occupants. The garage is approximately 40’ x 40’ and contained a full kitchen, living room, full bathroom and two bedrooms. The other half of the structure was set up as a garage with another bathroom. There were no smoke or carbon monoxide detectors in any of the bedrooms in either structure and no permits were on file for any of these unauthorized non-permitted conversions or uses. The owner was served with misdemeanor Appearance Tickets by the Town Investigator for alleged code violations including but not limited to: no plans or permits for the conversion of the detached structure into habitable space; no Certificate of Occupancy for the rooming house; no smoke detectors in the sleeping units; and outdoor storage of tires. The Quality of Life Task Force also became aware of information that was deemed sensitive and outside of the jurisdiction of the Town. This information was passed on to the Federal Agent from the ICE Unit who later took the owner into custody. He was later processed for removal proceedings.

Supervisor Mark Lesko said, "This investigation sends a strong message that illegal and unsafe housing will not be tolerated and we will do all we can to protect the quality of life, health, and safety of our residents."

"Illegal multi-family homes are a threat to nearly every community, but the Town is steadfast in our commitment to eradicate the problem," said Councilman Tim Mazzei, who represents the 5th District where the property is located. "Thanks to the work of our Quality of Life Task Force we are making progress and a positive impact on the lives of many of our residents."

If residents believe that a property owner is in violation with an illegal multi-family home, they may call the Town Law Department at 451-6500 and file a complaint. If they believe a property is in violation of any other Town of Brookhaven codes, they can call 451-TOWN to file a complaint.