Farmingville, NY - On September 27, the Town of Brookhaven Quality of Life Task Force took action at a residence on 18 Scranton Avenue in Port Jefferson Station. A Brookhaven Fire Marshal responded to an alarm for excessive levels of carbon monoxide in a basement apartment. He was accompanied by a Town Investigator. The location, which was already under investigation by the Task Force, was known by investigators to be an illegal multi-family dwelling. On a prior visit to the location, Investigators served the owner with Appearance Tickets for an expired accessory apartment permit.

Upon arrival to the property on September 27, both the Fire Marshal and Town Investigator learned that the dwelling was non-owner occupied and broken into four separate living units. The main floor consisted of a three bedroom unit. The basement consisted of three separate living areas, one which was determined to be a studio apartment with a living room, full kitchen and bathroom. Another apartment consisted of a living room, two bedrooms, a full kitchen and a bathroom. Another studio apartment was accessed through the garage and had no kitchen or cooking amenities. The bathroom for this unit was located on the first floor. All four apartment units were occupied. The Town Investigator issued a total of six Appearance Tickets including five "No Certificate of Occupancy" violations for the conversions of the dwelling (all misdemeanors) and one for dismantling vehicles. A court date is set for December 2, 2010.

"The Quality of Life Task Force continues to pursue those who break the law and violate our town codes," said Supervisor Lesko. "The Task force works to rid our neighborhoods of illegal dwellings which are not only a detriment to the residents who live nearby, but also a health and safety hazard for the people who live in them. Situations like this will not be tolerated by the Town and we will prosecute the violators to the fullest extent of the law."

Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld, who represents the 1st District where the property is located said, "The Quality of Life Task Force has been an effective tool in cracking down on illegally converted properties throughout the Town and I commend this action taken in Port Jefferson Station." He continued, "We are determined to investigate every case thoroughly, prosecute those who violate our laws and eliminate these properties from the community."

If residents believe that a property is 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.