Mark Lesko Sworn in as Town Supervisor
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FARMINGVILLE, NY - Brookhaven Supervisor Mark Lesko was sworn into office during a ceremony at the April 16 Town Board meeting. Supervisor Lesko was sworn in by New York State Supreme Court Judge Hector D. LaSalle, and was joined by his wife, Karen, Father Todd Saccoccia of St. Jude’s R.C. Church, and Town Clerk Pamela Betheil. Supervisor Lesko was elected to fulfill the unexpired term of former Supervisor Brian Foley, who was elected to the New York State Senate in 2008.

"I am honored to be chosen by the voters of Brookhaven to serve as their Town Supervisor," said Lesko. "This is an opportunity to bring new ideas to Brookhaven during challenging times, and work together in a bi-partisan manner to serve all of our residents."

Mark Lesko served for ten years in the United States Department of Justice as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Washington, D.C. and the Eastern District of New York. As the Deputy Chief of the Long Island Criminal Division, he led all federal investigations and prosecutions on Long Island. He has worked closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement officers to target corruption, racketeering, and gang violence on Long Island.

Supervisor Lesko served as the successful lead federal prosecutor in the internationally prominent Muttontown "slave" case, the Lawrence Aviation environmental pollution case in Port Jefferson Station, a racketeering murder case involving the murder of an innocent man by Latino gang members, and the Symbol Technologies corporate accounting case where virtually all of Symbol's senior management was prosecuted for fraud. He also oversaw the "Asphalt Cartel" case involving a successful prosecution of the owners of the major asphalt companies in Suffolk County for antitrust violations, the prosecution of officials of the William Floyd School District for tax evasion, the first federal conviction of a sitting New York State judge and the prosecution of a Nassau County Highway Inspector for taking bribes. Mark was also currently an adjunct law professor at Touro Law School on Long Island, where he taught a class on Federal Prosecutions.

As one of his first major acts in office, Supervisor Lesko named Republican Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh as Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Brookhaven. Walsh will continue to serve in her elected capacity as a Councilwoman on the Town Board, but will forego her salary as a Councilwoman. Councilwoman Walsh was sworn in as Deputy Supervisor by Town Clerk Pamela Betheil on April 17.

Kathleen Walsh was elected to the Town of Brookhaven Council District 3 in 2005 and re-elected in 2007 with an overwhelming majority of votes. During her tenure on the Town Board, she has been a champion of veterans, youth and women's issues in our community. She has sponsored precedent-setting sex offender legislation to protect our families, as well as numerous other initiatives that have improved the quality of life for residents in the Third Town Council District.

"Serving as Deputy Supervisor is an opportunity to show the people of Brookhaven that we are all here, and can work together for the common good of our taxpayers," said Councilwoman Walsh. "I would like to thank Supervisor Lesko for appointing me to this position, and thank my colleagues on the Town Board for their support."

"Choosing Kathy as Deputy Supervisor helps fulfill my pledge to bring Brookhaven together and ensure that Town government fights for all the people," said Supervisor Lesko. "This is a unique opportunity to forge a bipartisan partnership that will begin the process of taking politics out of town hall."

"Kathy is an exceptional choice for Deputy Supervisor by Supervisor Lesko," said Brookhaven Town Councilman Timothy Mazzei, the majority leader of the Town Board. "I look forward to working together with him, the new ideas we will be bringing forward, and our collective commitment to reform and positive changes for the citizens of Brookhaven."