Mazzei, Lesko. Eddington Urge Public To Have Their Voice Heard at Plaza Theater Condemnation Hearing
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EAST PATCHOGUE, NY - Brookhaven Town Councilman Timothy Mazzei and Supervisor Mark Lesko were joined by Suffolk County Legislator Jack Eddington today in announcing that the Town Board will be holding a public hearing on the condemnation of the former Plaza Theater, located on East Main Street in East Patchogue, for affordable housing purposes.

"Removing this eyesore from the heart of East Patchogue is a critical step in the revitalization of this downtown area. The Plaza Theater has been a problem for this community for more than 20 years," said Councilman Timothy Mazzei. "Acquiring and demolishing this theater will open the door for the revitalization of East Patchogue. This will be a major step in rebuilding this important business corridor, and the gateway to our community. I want to thank Legislator Jack Eddington for all his assistance in these efforts to improve this area."

Brookhaven Town offered to purchase the property for $1,190,000 from the owner, East Main Realty Corp., but the offer was rejected. Eminent Domain Procedure Law now requires that the Town Board hold a public hearing to allow all interested parties the opportunity to either object or make recommendations regarding condemnation, and to adopt and publish findings and determinations within 90 days of the hearing.

"By condemning this property, and having the Town acquire it under Eminent Domain procedure law, Brookhaven will be able to finally rid the community of this eyesore, and use this parcel for the public's benefit," said Supervisor Mark Lesko. "Removing this building will clear the way for affordable housing, and new opportunities for East Patchogue."

"Three and a half years ago I spoke with Focus East Patchogue about the condemnation of the Plaza Theatre and I got the process started. I gained the support of my colleagues in the Legislature and County Executive Levy, whose office has been instrumental," said Legislator Eddington. "I would also like to thank Councilman Mazzei, who was at the first meeting and helped gain the participation of the Town of Brookhaven when the time came. Working together and with the community, we will finally remove this blight, bring new development to East Patchogue and make East Main Street into a prosperous downtown."

"While a place of bliss in its heyday, the Plaza Theater has become a place of sighs and groans for all who see it now," Levy said. "This has been a long time coming and I am very thankful to the Town of Brookhaven for helping us get to this point. The condemnation of the Plaza Theater will not only remove an eyesore from the community, but it will aid us in our ongoing redevelopment of the East Main Street corridor in Patchogue."

Built in the 1950's, the Plaza Theater served the greater Patchogue community until the mid-1980's, when it closed with the advent of multi-plex theaters. Since then, the theater has remained boarded and empty.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Brookhaven Town Hall Auditorium, 1 Independence Hill, Farmingville, NY.