Town of Brookhaven Credit Rating Re-Affirmed at Aa2 by Moody’s, with Positive Outlook
posted on 12/9/2015 12:59:00 PM

Farmingville, NY – Supervisor Ed Romaine is pleased to report that Moody’s Investor Services has re-affirmed the Town of Brookhaven’s Aa2 credit rating and positive outlook. The credit rating was issued in conjunction with the Town’s planned General Obligation Serial Bonds sale later this month.

Moody’s Aa2 rating is in the top tier of the agency’s ratings category and considered high quality investment grade. A town’s credit rating is an important and reliable indicator of its fiscal health determined by independent and objective fiscal monitors. A higher credit rating saves the town money on its borrowings in the form of lower interest costs.

In the report, Moody’s noted that the Town’s management team “incorporates strong formal policies, including minimum reserve policies across major operating funds to ensure long term financial stability. The town also incorporates advanced budgeting practices, including maintaining a multi-year revenue and expenditure operating forecast in addition to a multi-year capital plan.”

Supervisor Ed Romaine said, “The Town is performing at a high level of fiscal responsibility and it clearly shows in Moody’s report that we are on the right course for the future. I’d like to thank Commissioner of Finance Tamara Wright, Chief of Operations Matt Miner and Councilwoman Jane Bonner for the work they have done to strengthen the Town’s finances. We have saved millions of taxpayer dollars over the last few years and will continue to do so in the years ahead.”

Councilwoman Jane Bonner, who serves as the Town Board Liaison to Finance said, “I commend Supervisor Romaine for his leadership and determination to improve our financial stability. The real winners are the Brookhaven taxpayers who want to make sure that their hard earned money is being spent wisely and that we are doing the best that we can to protect their interests.”

Moody’s identified the Town’s strengths as:

- A large tax base with above average income levels
- A strong management team and fiscal policies
- A significant institutional presence that provides workforce stability.

Other highlights of the report include:

- The positive outlook reflects Moody’s “expectation that the town will maintain reserve levels and structural balance without one-time gap closing measures.”
- Both residential and commercial development activity have seen upticks in recent years and Moody’s expects this trend to continue over the next two years.
- The net cash position of the Town’s operating funds was strong at the close of fiscal year 2014.