Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Mazzei Announce Quality of Life Task Force Action on Illegal Home Conversion in Ronkonkoma
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Former insurance office alleged to be site of illegal gambling operation

Farmingville, NY - On February 4, the Brookhaven Town Quality of Life Task Force assisted the detectives of the Suffolk County Police Departments Fifth Precinct at a location on Expressway Drive South in Ronkonkoma. Brookhaven Fire Marshals, along with Town Investigators, were invited to investigate Town Code violations in the structure observed by the Suffolk County Police Detectives during the execution of their search warrant. The Suffolk County Police made several arrests and Town Investigators will be issuing six appearance tickets to the property owner, three of which are misdemeanors.

The subject premise was formerly an insurance office, renovated and converted to a residence and alleged to be a site for illegal gambling activity. The structure included three bedrooms, a bathroom and upstairs kitchen, as well as a kitchenette and bathroom downstairs. All three bedrooms had key-locked doors. Smoke detectors were missing or non-operational on both floors and one of the entry doors had been barricaded from within the dwelling. Additional walls had been erected on both levels to create spaces (both upstairs and downstairs) that were allegedly being used for illicit purposes.

"Once again our Quality of Life Task Force has shown itself to be of great value to Brookhaven residents by targeting properties in our community that jeopardize the wonderful quality of life we enjoy," said Supervisor Lesko. "I commend the Quality of Life Task Force's coordinated effort with the Suffolk County Police Department and for continuing to aggressively enforce the Town Code."

"By right, good citizens who follow the law, should not have to put up with property owners or occupants who engage in illegal activities," said Councilman Tim Mazzei in whose district this house is located. "Our Quality of Life Task Force was empowered to put a stop to just such situations, and they continue to do an outstanding job enforcing the Town codes to protect and preserve our neighborhoods."

Supervisor Lesko established the Quality of Life Task Force in June of 2009. From June 2009 through December 2009, fines levied on code violations increased by 170% compared to the same time period in 2008.

In 2010, the Quality of Life Task Force continued its success. Compared to 2009, fines levied in 2010 nearly doubled to almost $1 million. Fines are levied through tickets issued to property owners with properties that have seriously unsafe or hazardous conditions.

If residents believe that a property is in violation of any Town of Brookhaven codes, they can call 451-TOWN to file a complaint.