

Supervisor Romaine and Councilwoman Bonner Oversee Final "Dirty Dozen" House Demolition in Coram

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Supervisor vows to continue demolition of eyesores throughout the Town

Farmingville, NY - On July 7, Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilwoman Jane Bonner were on hand during the demolition of a vacant house located 26 Gabon Lane in Coram. The house was the final one on the Supervisor's "Dirty Dozen" list which was announced at a press conference in September 2014. The "Dirty Dozen" were 12 vacant or abandoned houses targeted for demolition by the Town that were dangerous eyesores and a detriment to the quality of life in communities throughout the Town. Each had received numerous violations issued by the Town's Building and Law Departments. The houses were demolished by the Town in accordance with Chapter 73 of the Town Code which provides a "fast track" to rid neighborhoods of unsafe structures. The cost of demolition and debris removal is the responsibility of the property owner. The Town places a lien on the property that is then placed on the tax bill. The County reimburses the Town and they collect the money from the property owner. The Town estimates that there are approximately 2000 vacant houses in Brookhaven.

The "Dirty Dozen" pictured below, includes properties from every Council District in Brookhaven Town.

Supervisor Ed Romaine said, "The Dirty Dozen were the most notorious vacant houses in the Town, but they were not the only ones that we demolished. We are averaging about one demolition per week and will continue to remove many more of these eyesores. They pose a danger to the community and have a severe impact on property values in the neighborhood. I commend our Law, Building and Waste Management Departments for working together to help clean up Brookhaven Town."

Councilwoman Bonner said, "I applaud the Supervisor for his firm commitment to restore neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for our residents. All it takes is one abandoned house to bring down the property values of all the



1 Seacliff Avenue, Miller Place



5 Parnett Court, Port Jefferson Station



6 Frank Street, Patchogue



9 Middle Island Road, Yaphank



10 Murray, Lane, Coram



22 Sundial Lane, Bellport



25 Devoe Place, Mastic



26 Berkeley Avenue, Selden



26 Gabon Avenue, Coram



131 Bedford Avenue, Mastic



2808 John Roe Smith Avenue, Medford



33 Ashwood Drive, Shirley

nearby homes. I urge residents to report vacant homes on the Town's website and we will act on it."

Since taking office, Supervisor Romaine has spearheaded initiatives to battle vacant house issues all across the Town. In December 2013, the Town Board voted unanimously to adopt the Supervisor's legislation which created a vacant building registry. The law requires the owners of vacant property to register with the Town of Brookhaven, and provide a local point of contact for the party responsible for maintaining the property. The failure or refusal of any property owner to register a vacant building within 30 days after they become due will result in a fine of \$1,000 to \$15,000 for each failure or refusal to register. It is modeled after similar vacant home registries that have been adopted by municipalities across the nation in response to the foreclosure crisis.

In May 2014, the Supervisor launched the new Town web page and mobile app for residents to report vacant homes and commercial properties. Residents can go to www.brookhaven.org/vacanthouse and follow the easy steps to submit their report. The information is immediately entered into a centralized database which the Law Department will use to investigate. Residents can also report a vacant house by calling call 451-TOWN (8696), Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone 631-451-6595