

# Supervisor Romaine To Enact New Legislation Requiring Carbon Monoxide Detectors in All Commercial, Industrial and Office Buildings

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## *Town moves quickly to protect employees and customers*

**Farmingville, NY** - Supervisor Ed Romaine has announced that he will enact new legislation that will require all commercial, industrial and office buildings in the Town of Brookhaven to have carbon monoxide detectors installed. The Town Board will vote at the March 4 Board Meeting on a resolution to set a Public Hearing for March 25. The local law, which will be the first of its kind in New York State, is aimed to prevent death or injury due to high levels of carbon monoxide such as occurred on February 23 at Legal Seafood in Huntington Station. That incident, which was caused by a malfunctioning water heater flue pipe, claimed the life of one person and caused dozens more to be taken to the hospital for treatment. New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code does not require carbon monoxide detectors in commercial buildings, only residential buildings. Town code currently follows the State code.

"A deadly event like the recent one in Huntington Station forces all municipalities to look more closely at our fire and building codes and make changes to help prevent another tragedy from happening again," said Supervisor Romaine. "Carbon Monoxide detectors are required in all residential buildings and I urge commercial property owners to install them now, not only because it will be the law, but because it can save lives."

Supervisor Romaine's legislation will amend the current Town Code to include requiring carbon monoxide systems or detectors in all newly constructed buildings or structures including commercial, industrial, office and others where there is public assembly. All existing buildings or structures must have them installed within 90 days of the new law's effective date.

"This new legislation will go a long way to help save lives in the future," said Councilwoman Jane Bonner, Town Board Liaison to Fire Prevention. "I commend Supervisor Romaine for taking quick action so soon after the tragedy in Huntington Station that could have been prevented if there were carbon monoxide detectors in the building."

"This is common sense legislation that will provide protection for the lives of our employees and customers in an easy and economical way," said Jack McCarthy, president of the Suffolk County Restaurant & Tavern Owners Association. "I want to thank Supervisor Romaine for his leadership on this issue in putting forward this legislation."

Brian Rosenberg from the Long Island Restaurant and Hospitality Association said, "We fully support the implementation of legislation that will serve to protect staff and patrons alike at restaurants located in the Town of Brookhaven. It is important for business and government to work together in order to provide for the health, safety, and well being of our residents. "

### **Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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