

Councilwoman Bonner Attends Demolition of Abandoned House in Rocky Point

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Councilwoman Bonner (second from right), County Legislator Sarah Anker and members of the demolition team are pictured during demolition of the abandoned house at 96 Hillside Avenue in Rocky Point.

Farmingville, NY - On August 15th, Councilwoman Jane Bonner was on hand for the demolition of an abandoned house, located at 96 Hillside Avenue in Rocky Point. The property sat abandoned for over eight years until Suffolk County took control of it in 2011 after the property owner had failed to pay \$20,000 in taxes. Following the acquisition, the County gave the previous owners the opportunity to put in a claim on the property. Over the years, the site had fallen into disrepair and attracted various rodents, including raccoons.

"I'm glad that the residents of Hillside Avenue can now breathe a sigh of relief that this dilapidated eyesore will no longer spoil their beautiful community," said Councilwoman Bonner, "I commend Mr. Tiskowitz for bringing this situation to our attention and for his tenacious perseverance and determination to rid the neighborhood of blight. Properties such as this bring down the quality of life that we have come to appreciate in the Town of Brookhaven and I thank the Suffolk County government for their action to hasten its demolition."

County Legislator Anker said, "It's wonderful to see progress being made to resolve issues when residents and government work together. When the county is given the responsibility for maintaining, paying taxes (school, town, fire district) and policing many of these houses that are abandoned, it creates not only a burden for the immediate neighborhood but for all taxpayers. I look forward to introducing a county resolution to expedite the return of blighted properties to the tax roll and productive use. This legislation will provide a balanced approach that allows former owners a meaningful opportunity to redeem their properties while ensuring that tax default properties are returned to the tax roll and productive use within a reasonable time period."

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