

Supervisor Mark Lesko, Councilwoman Jane Bonner, and County Legislator Sarah Anker Announce Shutdown of Oxygen Bar in Rocky Point

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Bar was the site of a shooting on May 7, 2011



Pictured left to right are Councilwoman Jane Bonner, Supervisor Mark Lesko and Legislator Sarah Anker.

Town Fire Marshals tape Cease and Desist Operation Order on the door of the Oxygen Bar in Rocky Point

Farmingville, NY - On May 9, 2011, Supervisor Mark Lesko, Councilwoman Jane Bonner, and County Legislator Sarah Anker announced the shutdown of the Oxygen Bar in Rocky Point due to an expired Place of Assembly permit.

"My number one priority is to ensure the health and safety of Brookhaven residents and the Town will use all of our resources to achieve that goal. The recent acts of violence at the Oxygen Bar is an unfortunate incident, and in response to the operator of the Bar not renewing a necessary permit we are shutting it down," said Supervisor Mark Lesko.

"I have battled long and hard, using every resource available to shut down this establishment," said Councilwoman Jane Bonner. "It appears that my efforts have finally paid off. A business like this is incompatible with the revitalization plans now underway for the Rocky Point Downtown Business District and our actions to close it down will certainly make the area more attractive and safer for all of our residents."

Legislator Sarah Anker stated, "This weekend's shooting is just one of many incidences that have occurred at this location." Anker added, "I have been in contact with the Suffolk County 7th Precinct Police Department and the State Liquor Authority, to request an investigation of the violent events at this establishment in order to bring forth a permanent closure of this club."

On the morning of May 9, Town officials from the Quality of Life Task Force, Town Attorney's office, Building Department, Fire Marshals office, and Supervisor Lesko and Councilwoman Bonner met to ensure the Oxygen Bar had all of its proper Town permits up to date in light of the non-fatal shootings of four people that took place on Saturday morning, May 7, 2011.

The Town found that the operator of the Bar, Robert Gerson, did not re-apply for a place of Assembly permit that expired on April 9, 2011. Applicants receive a notice from the Fire Marshal's office 60 days before their permit expires and usually receives a reasonable grace period of 30 days beyond the expiration date since it is a renewal. Exactly thirty days has passed since Oxygen Bar's permit expired.

A Place of Assembly permit is necessary for any room or space used for any type of gathering, including entertainment, of more than 50 people.

The Town of Brookhaven has reached out to the New York State Liquor Authority to make sure the Oxygen Bar was complying with all state regulations regarding the sale of alcohol.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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