

Dedication of the Keith Romaine Memorial Skate Park and Ribbon Cutting in the Town of Brookhaven

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PHOTO 1: Bob Vecchio, President of William Floyd School District, Legislator Kate Browning, Paul Breschard, Mayor of Panico and Legislators Kate Browning and Ed Romaine Mastic Beach Village, County Executive Steve Levy, Councilman Dan Panico, Legislator Ed Romaine, County Clerk Judith Pascale, Councilwoman Jane Bonner, State Senator Lee Zelden.

PHOTO 2: Skate board enthusiasts with Councilman Dan

Farmingville, NY - On Friday, January 14, 2011 at 11:00 am Councilman Dan Panico, will be joined by New York State Senator Lee Zeldin, Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, Legislator Ed Romaine, Legislator Kate Browning, Supervisor Mark Lesko, Councilwoman Bonner, Parks Commissioner Ed Morris, Local Civic Leaders, School Leaders, Area Skateboard and BMX Enthusiasts who contributed to the design of the skate park, Friends and Family of late Councilman Keith Romaine to dedicate the new skate park facility in memoriam to the late Councilman Keith Romaine.

"Those people who were fortunate enough to know Keith Romaine knew he was a great person who believed in the people he represented and believed that children of our communities should have adequate recreational facilities," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "Keith researched and designated the land on which the skate park sits. He also worked with the local youth who helped design this park, which will now bear his name and commemoration for all to enjoy."

"I want to thank the Brookhaven Town Board for naming the new skate park in Mastic Beach for my son Keith. As a Councilman, he fought hard to make this skate park a reality so the kids would have a place to play. Keith strongly believed in providing accessible recreational opportunities for the kids of Brookhaven. It is a very appropriate way to remember him," commented Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine.

"Today's dedication of the Keith Romaine Memorial Skate Park shows that even with his passing the vision of the late Councilman Romaine has lived on. Councilman Dan Panico and the rest of the Brookhaven Town Board have done a great job in ensuring this project was completed. This Skate Park will be a great benefit to residents of the Tri-Hamlet community and a fitting memorial to Councilman Keith Romaine." Said New York State Senator Lee Zeldin.

"I want to thank Councilman Dan Panico for working so hard to fulfill this dream of a skate park envisioned by the late Keith Romaine," said Assemblyman Dean Murray. "Tony Hawk said, 'I consider skateboarding an art form, a lifestyle and a sport,' and Councilman Romaine saw that many of his young constituents believed that, too. This park will allow them to express themselves through skating in a safe environment, away from commercial parking lots and buildings, where they can compete and enjoy this sport."

"I was happy to have worked with Legislators Pete O'Leary and Kate Browning, and Councilman Keith Romaine and Dan Panico in helping to make this skate board park a reality for the youngsters in the Mastic-Shirley community.

"I'm also happy that Councilman Keith Romaine's name is fittingly being associated with this park in perpetuity." Said Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy.

"I am sad that Councilman Romaine is not with us today since we worked together on this project, and it is fitting to name the skate park in his honor." Said Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning. "I would like thank County Executive Levy, Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Panico in their efforts to finalize the park with me. The young people of the community who have been very patient and great advocates to make this day a reality will now have an appropriate place to enjoy their sport. "

"This is going to be a fantastic recreation facility for our children and I am happy dedicate it to the late Councilman Keith Romaine," said Supervisor Lesko.

"Serving on the town board with Keith, I was always struck by his passion to improve the community he grew up in, and make a lasting difference for the kids who live there," said Councilwoman Jane Bonner. "This skate park was his pride and joy, and dedicating it in his name is a fitting legacy to the memory of this man, who worked so hard to make his town better for all his neighbors."

"This is a great day for the kids in our community. We are extremely grateful to local government officials, particularly, Councilman Dan Panico, Legislator Kate Browning and the late councilman Keith Romaine for all of their efforts to see this dream come true." Said William Floyd School District Superintendent Paul Casciano.

"The skate park represents our efforts to improve the quality of life of the children and residents of Mastic Beach. Hopefully, the Town and the new Village will continue to cooperate to ensure that our community is the place where people want to raise their families." Said Paul Breschard, Mayor of the newly formed Mastic Beach Village.

"I am so happy to see the opening of the Keith Romaine Memorial Skate Park has finally arrived. This has been a 12 year journey that began with the County of Suffolk allocating funds and thanks to the late Councilman Keith Romaine for obtaining matching fund and finding a perfect location. Not to mention the continuing efforts of Councilman Dan Panico. Our children will now have a place to skate in a safe and secure spot." Exclaimed Beth Wahl, President of the William Floyd Community Summit.

"We are hoping this keeps the children in a safe environment and off the streets. We would like to thank the people who worked so hard to get this facility complete. Specifically, Councilman Panico and Legislator Browning for making this happen." Said Bob DeBona, President of the MBPOA.

The new state-of-the-art facility includes Hubba Ledges, China Bank sections, Rainbow Rails, Grind Rails and more. The cost of the new park was paid for through a \$250,000 grant from Suffolk County and \$250,000 in capital funding by the Town, which was secured through the efforts of Councilman Dan Panico and the late Councilman Keith Romaine who was one of the driving forces behind the project and who found the location for this park.

For more information about the Town of Brookhaven Parks department and our facilities, visit www.brookhaven.org

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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