

Bonner, Romaine Announce Huge Savings To Taxpayers Thanks To Their Vehicle Reform Policy

posted on 4/17/2009 8:21:35 AM

FARMINGVILLE, NY - Brookhaven Council members Keith Romaine and Jane Bonner today announced that the Town has reduced gasoline consumption by 15.5 percent in 2009 over the same period last year, thanks to measures they initiated in the Comprehensive Vehicle Reform Policy.

As part of Brookhaven's Comprehensive Vehicle Reform Policy, employees who had been assigned a Town-owned vehicle may no longer use them for commuting purposes. These 45 cars, which had assigned to management and supervisory employees, must now be parked in assigned, designated spots at Town Hall at the end of the workday. This reform initiative, spearheaded by Bonner and Romaine, is the first significant effort to streamline, restructure and restrict Town vehicle use,

"Today, we're seeing the dividends of this successful policy, resulting in a significant savings for our taxpayers," said Bonner. "This was common sense legislation that simply asked our employees to do what the vast majority of our taxpayers do every day - commute to and from work at your own expense. There is no reason for our taxpayers to spend their hard-earned dollars for the fuel, maintenance and insurance costs of vehicle that, by and large, were used as a perk for public servants."

"This reform measure that I co-sponsored with Councilwoman Bonner has been amazingly successful," said Councilman Romaine. "This policy has saved our taxpayers an estimated \$100,000, while maintaining a working fleet of pool vehicles to allow town employees to perform their jobs and provide the level of service our residents deserve. It has eliminated unnecessary personal use of these vehicles, and may allow for the fleet to be reduced - at a further savings to our taxpayers."

Last year, before the new policy was put in place, more than a half-million miles were driven in Brookhaven Town vehicles for personal - not public - business. Both Councilwoman Bonner and Councilman Romaine refused to accept a publicly funded vehicle when they took office last year, and use their own cars for all Town business.

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