

Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright Celebrates Black History Month at Town Hall

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Farmingville, NY - On February 7th, the Town of Brookhaven held the 23rd Annual Black History Month Celebration. The Town's formal involvement with the event began in 1993, after a Town Board Resolution was passed unanimously, creating an official Black History Commission. The Town informally assisted community members in organizing a "Black History Night" for several years prior to the creation of the Commission. Earlier this year, Supervisor Ed Romaine appointed Councilwoman Cartright as Town Board Liaison to the Black History Commission.

The theme of this year's Black History Month Celebration was "A Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Step." Several hundred people attended the event which focused on progress and student academic excellence. The keynote speaker, Dr. M. Jamal Colson, currently an Assistant Principal at Paca Middle School, was honored for his contributions to academia and the community. Academic Excellence Awards were presented by the Supervisor and Town Board members to over 60 high school students throughout the Town of Brookhaven. Brookhaven Town officials present at the event included Supervisor Ed Romaine, Councilpersons Connie Kepert and Daniel Panico and Town Clerk Donna Lent.

"In 1993, the Town of Brookhaven took a single step and formed the Black History Commission. The continuation of this journey is exemplified by the Town's most recent progress," said Councilwoman Cartright. The Councilwoman co-sponsored Supervisor Romaine's resolution to expand the scope of the Black History Commission. The Town Board acknowledged that celebrating the contributions of Black Americans should not be limited to a specific month. Moreover, the stated Commission goal of educating the youth and the Town citizens about the history of Black culture and heritage should be a year round endeavor.

"This program is the kickoff event for what promises to be an exciting and educational year of events. I thank the members of the Commission and all those who participated, making this Celebration a great success," stated Councilwoman Cartright.

For information about the Commission and its members, please visit www.brookhaven.org.

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