

Supervisor Romaine and Councilman Panico Oversee Demolition of Abandoned House in Mastic

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Farmingville, NY - On October 22, Supervisor Ed Romaine (right) and Councilman Dan Panico (left) were present to oversee the demolition of a condemned, abandoned house located at 38 Herkimer Street in Mastic. The property owner had been issued numerous violations dating back to November of 2009 and the Town had boarded and secured the house many times, the latest in March of 2014.

Supervisor Romaine said, "In a neighborhood where people take pride in their homes, an eyesore like this can diminish the quality of life and severely impact property values. By demolishing this house, we have made a big difference in the neighborhood. I commend our Law, Building and Waste Management Departments who are working together to clean up Brookhaven Town."

"We are going to continue to rid our communities of these blighted eyesores that qualify for demolition and removal under the law," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "Since taking office, I have brought an unprecedented focus on the quality of life in this district, and my focus will continue for both residential and commercial properties. Collectively we are raising the bar for what is an acceptable standard of living in the Town of Brookhaven."

This is the fourth vacant house demolished by the Town since the beginning of September. The first three homes demolished were included in Supervisor Romaine's "Dirty Dozen," 12 vacant houses which have become dangerous eyesores and a detriment to the quality of life in the community. The targeted houses have received numerous violations issued by the Town's Building and Law Departments. They will be demolished by the Town in accordance with Chapter 73 of the Town Code which provides a "fast track" to rid neighborhoods of unsafe structures. The cost of demolition and debris removal is the responsibility of the property owner. The Town places a lien on the property that is then placed on the tax bill. The County reimburses the Town and they collect the money from the property owner.

The "Dirty Dozen" listed below, includes properties from every Council District in Brookhaven Town:

1. 25 Devoe Place, Mastic
2. 33 Ashwood Drive, Shirley
3. 131 Bedford Avenue, Mastic (Demolished 10/15/14)
4. 10 Murray Lane, Coram

5. 2808 John Roe Smith Avenue, Medford
6. 1 Seacliff Avenue, Miller Place
7. 6 Frank Street, Patchogue
8. 26 Gabon Lane, Coram
9. 22 Sundial Lane, Bellport
10. 9 Middle Island Road, Yaphank
11. 5 Parnet Court in Port Jefferson Station (Demolished (10/1/2014))
12. 26 Berkeley Avenue in Selden (Demolished 9/3/14)

Since taking office, Supervisor Romaine has spearheaded initiatives to battle vacant house issues all across the Town. In December 2013, the Town Board voted unanimously to adopt the Supervisor's legislation which created a vacant building registry. The law requires the owners of vacant property to register with the Town of Brookhaven, and provide a local point of contact for the party responsible for maintaining the property. The failure or refusal of any property owner to register a vacant building within 30 days after they become due will result in a fine of \$1,000 to \$15,000 for each failure or refusal to register. It is modeled after similar vacant home registries that have been adopted by municipalities across the nation in response to the foreclosure crisis.

In May of this year, the Supervisor announced the launch of a new Town webpage and mobile app for residents to report vacant homes and commercial properties. Residents can go to the Town's website at www.brookhaven.org/vacanthouse and follow the easy steps to submit their report. The information will be immediately entered into a centralized database which the Law Department will use to investigate. Residents can also report a vacant house by calling call 451-TOWN (8696), Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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