

# Councilman Mazzei Steps Down from Post to Run for Suffolk County Court Judge

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## **Move will save residents approximately \$100,000 by avoiding costly special election**

**Farmingville, NY** - Councilman Tim Mazzei, a Blue Point attorney who has served on the Brookhaven Town Board since 2003, has resigned his post to run for Suffolk County Court Judge. The Councilman's resignation became effective on August 28, 2014. The move allows voters to elect a new Councilperson during the General Election to be held on November 4, thus avoiding a special election in early 2015 which would have cost the taxpayers approximately \$100,000. It also assures that the post will be filled immediately after the election results are certified by the Board of Elections. The Councilman has been cross-endorsed by the Republican, Democrat, Conservative and Independence parties.

Prior to being elected in the Fifth Town Council District, which includes Blue Point, Patchogue, North Patchogue, East Patchogue, Medford, parts of Lake Ronkonkoma, Holbrook, Holtsville, and many communities on Fire Island, Councilman Mazzei spent nine and a half years working in the Suffolk County District Attorney's office. There he served as an Assistant District Attorney and the Bureau Chief of the Homicide Division. He has also been a longtime partner in a local law firm.

"For 11 years, Tim Mazzei has been a staunch representative for the Fifth District. I was fortunate to have him share his experience and wisdom with me," said Supervisor Romaine. "He has been a dependable member of our Town Board and someone who has helped do the right thing for Brookhaven Town. I know he will be a great County Court Judge."

Councilman Mazzei is the senior member of the Town Board, serving as a member of the Town Council since June of 2003. During his tenure, his most significant accomplishments have included the revitalization of the East Patchogue Main Street corridor with the extension of sewers, the demolition of the long abandoned Plaza Theater, and the transformation of the vacant Nesenger Chevrolet dealership into an environmentally friendly open-space park that will serve as the gateway to the community.

Mazzei also worked tirelessly to replace and upgrade infrastructure along our south shore waterfront communities, with improvements to Davis Park, Corey Beach and marina, and numerous other public waterfront areas, to insure all residents of the Town would be able to enjoy access to the Great South Bay and Atlantic Ocean. Councilman Mazzei oversaw the adoption of the East Patchogue and Ronkonkoma Land Use Plans, creating a roadmap for the future of these communities, and has been a constant steward of the Ronkonkoma Hub project, which has become a model for transit oriented development on Long Island. In addition, Mazzei sponsored legislation tightening the Town's housing codes, to combat overcrowding and illegal housing.

"I commend Tim on his years of faithful service to the residents of the Town and congratulate him on ascending to the position of County Court Judge. Recognizing that a costly special election would have to be held in either the dead of winter or alternatively the practical and cost saving choice of November's general election, where voters will be heading to the polls anyway, I commend him on the choice which I know was personally very difficult for him because public service is in his blood," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico.

Councilwoman Jane Bonner said, "Councilman Mazzei has been a staunch advocate for the people of his district and the entire Town. This board will certainly miss his legislative experience and vast knowledge of government, and I wish him the best of luck in the future."

Councilman Kevin LaValle said, "Councilman Mazzei has been a longtime public servant and we are fortunate that he will continue to serve the people as a Suffolk County Court Judge. His passion as a Town board member is well known and it has been a real benefit to his constituents. I wish him nothing but the best."

"I will genuinely miss my friend Tim Mazzei, particularly his heartfelt comments and compassion at Town Board meetings. His tenure at the Town should be remembered for both his economic and environmental feats," said Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Connie Kepert.

"I join my colleagues at the Town Board in thanking Councilman Tim Mazzei for his many years of service to his

constituents and the entire Town of Brookhaven," said Councilwoman Cartright. "Although our time working together was brief, I appreciated his forthright and candid approach. I extend my best wishes for his future professional endeavors."

"Throughout my time in government I have always found Tim to be a courteous and professional colleague. I wish him the very best as a County Court Judge and know he will do a great job," said Brookhaven Highway Superintendent Dan Losquadro. "I'm sure it wasn't easy for him to step down because he loves serving as Councilman so much, but in doing so we avoid another costly special election in March and ensure that his seat will be filled during the November General Election"

"During his tenure on the Town Board, Tim Mazzei served the people of the Fifth District, as well as the entire Town of Brookhaven, with dynamic insight and dedication, and his contribution will be missed. I wish him well in his future endeavors confident that he will continue to put the public he serves first and will be an outstanding judge," said Brookhaven Town Receiver of Taxes Lou Marcoccia.

"Tim Mazzei is to be commended for more than a decade of public service to the residents of Brookhaven Town" said Donna Lent, Brookhaven Town Clerk. "I wish Tim the best as he starts a new chapter in his life, one as a County Court Judge. His decision to step down early as Brookhaven Town Councilman for the Fifth District will save taxpayers the cost of running a separate special election, as the timing of his resignation allows for the for the required special election to be held in November on Election Day. Kudos to Mr. Mazzei for remembering the taxpayers as he makes the jump to distinguished jurist."

Patchogue Village Mayor Paul Pontieri said, "Tim is a good friend and has always been a loyal proponent of the Village of Patchogue. Since I've been in office, we have worked on many projects that would never have been completed without his support. He will be missed."

Councilman Mazzei's legislative aides will continue to serve the residents of the 5th Council District after his resignation becomes effective. Supervisor Romaine and the Town Council will present a special honor to Councilman Mazzei at the September 9 Town Board Meeting.

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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