

Councilman Panico Passes Law to Prohibit Political Executive Board Members from Serving on Town IDA and Industrial Development Corporation

posted on 7/16/2014 1:23:45 PM

July 16, 2014

Farmingville, NY - At last night's Town Board meeting, Councilman Dan Panico and the Brookhaven Town Board unanimously passed legislation to preclude political chairpersons and their executive board members from serving on the Town's Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and Local Development Corporation (LDC). The IDA and LDC are Town organizations with the authority to grant millions of dollars of tax breaks and incentives to retain and attract business and jobs to Brookhaven.

"New York State Comptroller DiNapoli's most recent annual audit report detailing that Long Island had the highest amount of tax exemptions of New York's 10 regions, totaling \$118 million dollars in 2012, is a clear indication that we must raise the bar, in both perception and reality," commented Councilman Dan Panico. "The bill that we have passed will eliminate the possibility of political chairs and their executive committee board from serving as members of the entities charged with giving out substantial tax breaks and incentives for the purpose of job growth and retention. Thankfully, the Town of Brookhaven does not have any such persons on our IDA/LDC, and now after the passage of this law, we never will. I thank the entire Town Board for joining me and hope that other municipalities will follow suit."

Shortly after his election in 2010, Councilman Panico introduced and passed ethics reform legislation to preclude political chairpersons and their executive board members from serving in elected and appointed board capacity in Brookhaven Town. Councilman Panico also wrote the Town's landmark anti-nepotism law.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258