

# Town of Brookhaven's Fifth Annual "Polar Plunge" Raises More Than \$155,000 to Benefit Special Olympics

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**Farmingville, NY** – On November 21, the Town of Brookhaven and the Special Olympics of New York hosted the sixth annual "Polar Plunge: Freezin' for a Reason" at Cedar Beach in Mount Sinai. Nearly 900 plungers, including Councilwoman Jane Bonner, Councilman Kevin LaValle and Councilman Neil Foley, along with other Town employees, braved the ice-cold water of the Long Island Sound to collectively raise over \$155,000 for the Special Olympics. For the second year in a row, the team that raised the most money was the "Petro Polar Plungers," who collected more than \$8,600.

Pictured above are Special Olympics NY Associate Director of Development Jennifer Cantone; Councilman Neil Foley; Councilman Kevin LaValle; Councilwoman Jane Bonner; Supervisor Ed Romaine; Special Olympics NY Regional Director Diane Colonna and JVC Broadcasting's Jay Letterman.

Supervisor Ed Romaine said, "It was a perfect day for the Polar Plunge and I commend all the volunteers, plungers, Town employees, and first responders who worked so hard to make it a success. The Special Olympics is a great organization that helps so many people with disabilities compete on a high level to achieve their goals and I am proud to lend my support."

"This was my sixth Polar Plunge and I am so happy to see this event grow over the years," said Councilwoman Bonner. "Thanks to the Special Olympics, the volunteers and my fellow plungers, we have shown once again that Brookhaven Town residents care."

"It's great to see the enthusiasm of the plungers even though they are getting ready to jump into very cold water," said Councilman LaValle. "I've taken the plunge for the last two years and it is fun to be a part of this worthwhile event. I look forward to doing it again next year."

Councilman Foley said, "It was my first Polar Plunge and the water was very cold, but I had wonderful time with Jane and Kevin. The Special Olympics athletes and volunteers are an inspiration for all of us and I am happy to do my part

to help.”

Special Olympics New York, Long Island Region has 4,000 athletes training and competing year-round in 22 Olympics-style sports. The athletes and their families or caregivers are never charged to participate. It costs \$400 to support training and competition for one athlete for one sports season. For more information about the Special Olympics New York, go to [www.specialolympicsny.org](http://www.specialolympicsny.org)

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

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