

# Councilman Panico Restores Two Fire Marshalls in the 2013 Budget

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**Farmingville, NY** - On October 11, 2012, Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico was joined by Councilman Tim Mazzei, Councilwoman Jane Bonner, Councilman Steve Fiore Rosenfeld and Councilwoman Connie Keper in the interests of the health and welfare of the residents of the Town of Brookhaven to restore two Fire Marshalls set to be eliminated in the 2013 budget as proposed by former Supervisor Lesko..

"I consider it an honor and privilege to serve as the liaison to fire and emergency services," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "I was extremely pleased that we were able to restore the two positions that were slated to be abolished in the Supervisor's 2013 budget. Public safety is government's primary function and these two fine young fire marshals are always there to answer the call for the Town of Brookhaven and also as volunteers at their local fire departments."

"The possible loss of two fire marshals, down to 12 from a high of 18 in 2001, would impact our first responder responsibilities for hazardous material spills throughout this very large town," indicated Building Commissioner Martin Haley.

In 1987 the Town Board saw fit to create a Fire Prevention Division which essentially did three things.

1. Provided for specialized code enforcement consistent with NYS statutes regarding "hazards of fire and explosion arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials and devices and from conditions hazardous to life or property in the use or occupancy of buildings or premises."
2. Provide support for 37 fire districts in determining the cause of fires. Such is based on a specific call from an incident commander which many times causes an emergency call out of a fire marshal.
3. First Responder Status. This is for hazardous materials. Calls may come directly for first response or from a fire district needing support. Fire Marshals get constant training and must pass a physical in order to maintain their qualifications for the job. Currently no fire district or the county has the equipment and training necessary to do this work.

Code enforcement takes up approximately 70% of our resources with the remaining 30% covering emergencies for investigations and hazmat.

For more information about the Town of Brookhaven and/or to follow the achievements and actions Councilman Panico is taking to improve our communities please go to [www.Brookhaven.org](http://www.Brookhaven.org).

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

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