

Councilman Panico Applauds The Community Effort That Led To The Repeal Of The Suffolk County Twilight Fee

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Pictured r to l (Community organizer Donato Sangemino, Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico, William Floyd Community Summit President Beth Wahl and Legislator Kate Browning)

Farmingville, NY - On Monday, July 9th, 2012, Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico joined a grassroots effort that led to the repeal of the \$5.00 twilight fee at Smith Point and Cupsogue beaches.

"This was the straw that broke the taxpayers back and I don't think anyone anticipated the outcry from residents, but I am sure glad that the community rallied against the imposition of this fee," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "While most of the accessible waterfront property on this island is privately owned, residents should have reasonable free access to the waterfront for their enjoyment. It was bad enough that the County hiked up the Green Key fee this year, but this latest move brought the community to a boil. Although a Town official, I was proud to rally support for this cause and will always support my community no matter what level of government the issue is regarding."

A social media page on Facebook was created by Donato Sangemino, his wife Cheryl Banks Sangemino and his sister-in-law Kathy Goetschius. In approximately two weeks, this page was the impetus to gather hundreds of opponents who received the news that Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone would reverse his decision.

"I am very proud that this community came together to fight this unfair fee, it is my hope that we will continue standing together to continue improving this community," commented community organizer Donato Sangemino.

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