

Town Board Votes to Appoint Members to Supervisor Lesko's Bipartisan Redistricting Committee

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Independent Committee will objectively draw new Council District lines

Farmingville, NY - The Town Board recently voted unanimously to appoint six members of Supervisor Mark Lesko's bipartisan Redistricting Committee to analyze census data and determine the new Town Council District boundary lines. The committee, which is a historic first for the Town of Brookhaven, was called for by Supervisor Lesko during his State of the Town address in January. The current system of Councilmatic districts was established ten years ago.

"I thank the Town Council for appointing such outstanding people to serve on the Bipartisan Redistricting Committee," said Supervisor Lesko, "Our goal was to take the politics out of the process of redrawing the lines and provide an objective plan that will benefit the people of Brookhaven, not the political parties. I am confident that this group of highly qualified people will accomplish that goal."

Deputy Supervisor / Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh said, "Our council districts should be drawn to benefit the residents, not any political parties, which is the goal of the redistricting committee. I have confidence in their ability to take an objective view of the current districts and redraw the lines in a way that is fair and equitable for all."

Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld said, "I am hopeful that the re-districting commission will provide a balanced analysis of our town's demographics and minor population shift so that our town residents will continue to receive effective and just representation on our town board. The Commission should make efforts to keep hamlets whole - within a single council district- as in the case of Farmingville- our town residents will be better for doing so."

"I'm hopeful that this process will be fair, uneventful and calm," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "I thank each redistricting committee member for their willingness to serve and look forward to reviewing their work product."

Councilwoman Connie Kepert said, "I'm confident that the work of this bi-partisan committee will result in the equitable redistricting of the Town of Brookhaven. The important job of this committee will be to ensure that all residents get proper representation at Town Hall and that council districts remain credible."

Councilman Tim Mazzei said, "Redistricting will assure that all residents are fairly represented throughout the Town and I thank the members of the committee who have offered to volunteer their time to get this done."

Councilwoman Jane Bonner said, "The population of our Town has grown and shifted over the last 10 years and it is important that our districts reflect the changes. I am confident that the Redistricting Committee will succeed in creating boundaries that will be in the best interest of all our residents."

Before the Redistricting law was enacted, there was no codified process for redrawing Council District lines. This is the first time the Town will use a bipartisan commission to redraw its lines and ensure that the reapportionment will provide for an equal weight in vote for each Council District. Any person who has served as an elected official or held a party leadership position since 2007 was prohibited from serving on the Commission. In addition, any relatives of sitting Brookhaven Town elected officials could not serve.

The Bipartisan Redistricting Commission is comprised of eight members:

Democrat members

- **Gail Lynch Bailey of Middle Island** is the President of the Longwood Alliance and co-owner of a school photography business. She is the Vice President of the Middle Island Civic Association and a past president of Longwood PTA Council. Gail serves on the Town of Brookhaven's Caithness Host Benefit Citizens Advisory Committee and was recently appointed to the Accessory Apartment Review Board. In 2011, she received the Longwood CSD Board of Education's Carl Verdi Community Pride Award and this spring received the Town's

Office of Women's Services Award for Outstanding Service to the Community as a Community Service Volunteer.

- **Jacqueline Rudman Jurkowicz of Setauket** has been a practicing attorney for more than 20 years. She is currently the president of the Strongs Neck Civic Association, a member of the Civic Associations of the Setaukets and Stony Brook, Three Village Community Trust and the Three Village Historical Society. Jacqueline also served on the Three Village Central School District Board of Education from 2005 to 2008.
- **Pastor Reverend Jeffery Saunders of Coram** is Pastor of the Feed My Sheep Missionary Baptist Church where he has served as the Chairman of the Deacon Board and Superintendent of the Sunday School. He is also a member of the Anointed by God Chaplains Association.

Republican members

- **Garrett Swenson of Brookhaven** is an attorney whose private practice specializes in legal matters arising in local government. He has served as the Southampton Town Attorney (2006-2007), Chief Deputy Town Attorney for Brookhaven Town (2004-2006) and a Suffolk County Attorney (1993-2004) as Bureau Chief-State/Federal Torts Bureau, Deputy Bureau Chief and Principal Assistant County Attorney.
- **Madeline Grosso of Medford** has worked for the Suffolk County Board of Elections for 25 years. She is a member of the Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Advisory Council, past officer of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Medford Fire Department, Patchogue-Medford Council of PTAs, Brookhaven Town Women's Advisory Board and the Brookhaven Great South Bay Lions Club.
- **Leah Jefferson of Patchogue** is the American Cancer Society's Regional Advocacy Director for Long Island and previously served in a number of governmental positions including Long Island Regional Director for the New York State Division of Human Rights. She is President of the Great South Bay Lions Club and an Advisory board member of Dress for Success Brookhaven.

At-Large members

- **Reverend Dr. Beresford Adams of Coram** has been the pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Coram, since 1987 and is head of the Brookhaven Branch of the NAACP. He is president of the following boards: Middle Island Alliance, East End African-American Baptist Clergy, Youth Awareness Inc., the Eastern Baptist Association and Board of Christian Education. He is a board member of the following organizations: Suffolk County Anti-Bias Task Force, RSVP (Secretary), and the Campaign for Human Development of Catholic Charities, and he was appointed to be the Assistant to the Commissioner of the Suffolk County Police Department for Minority Affairs.
- **Martin G. Callahan of Miller Place** is a partner and Vice President of Sales for National Computerized Agencies, Inc. and has been involved in community service including the American Heart Association, North Shore Colts Youth Organization and was honored as the 2007 Businessman of the Year by the Town of Brookhaven Youth Bureau.

According to the new law, the Commission's redistricting plan must be submitted to the Town by September 15, 2012. Commission members will analyze census statistics to determine if and how the lines should be redrawn. A supermajority of the Commission - six out of eight members - must approve the redistricting plan in order for it to be considered by the Town Board. The Town Board must act upon the proposal by December 15, 2012.

The Town is required to re-evaluate Council District lines every ten years in accordance with the U.S. census.. For more information about the Town of Brookhaven or to see the current Brookhaven Town Council district maps, please visit www.brookhaven.org.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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