

# Town Board Adopts Councilman Panico's Resolution to Rollback Fee Increases Imposed On Homeowners

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**Farmingville, NY** - At the public hearing of Tuesday, September 20, 2011, Councilman Dan Panico received a unanimous vote to repeal the resolution from November 2010 that increased clearing limit fees by 60% on homeowners making application for relief of clearing limits.

The Local Law amending Chapter 29 of the code of the Town of Brookhaven entitled, "Fees" by amending section 29-7 entitled "zoning and Land use regulations by amending 29-7C (19) entitled "Relief of Clearing Limits" by eliminating a sliding scale for fees and replacing it with fixed fees and a hardship criteria, exempting the fee under certain conditions.

"As I and my colleagues Councilpersons Mazzei and Bonner argued almost a year ago, the implementation of these fee increases by a staggering 60% from \$500.00 and \$1,000.00 to \$800.00 and \$1,600.00 were ill conceived and had no basis in fact with regard to the cost of providing the service," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "When fees are levied that are in excess of the cost of providing the service, it is a disingenuous way of collecting revenue which I refer to as a backdoor tax. I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to work with my fellow board members, even those who last November voted to approve this increase, specifically Councilwomen Kepert whom I collaborated with to provide an exemption for those residents making applications that seek relief for parcels which may have been over cleared, but had since been issued building permits by the Town of Brookhaven."

Since the inception of these increased fees last November, the Town has seen a steep decline in applications for clearing limit relief, from 40 in 2010 to only 9 in 2011.

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

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