

Panico & Lesko Pass Double Wood Legislation

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Farmingville, NY - At the May 18th Town board meeting, Councilman Daniel J. Panico, co-sponsored a resolution to amend the "highways" chapter of town code. This new local law is designed to provide a policy in the town code for the removal of utility poles that are no longer in use by the telephone company. Such poles are often left in place beside newer poles that are intended as replacements. This legislation will combat an ever present blight afflicting the landscapes of communities across the town of Brookhaven and promote public safety as older poles decay and run the risk of falling to the ground.

"Above ground utilities already impact the streetscape of our communities," said Councilman Daniel J. Panico, 6th Council District Councilman, "Doubled utility poles are not only a blight on the landscape of our community but also pose serious potential harm for our motorists and we will no longer tolerate broken poles to be left on the roadside."

This resolution mirrors one proposed for county roads by Legislator Ed Romaine who strongly supports this measure. "Double wood is more than an eyesore," Said Legislator Romaine. "Damaged poles left standing for long periods of time pose a safety risk to motorists and pedestrians alike."

The Communications Workers of America, Local 1108 has also voiced its strong support of this measure. "The proliferation of double and broken poles in the Town of Brookhaven has grown at an unacceptable rate," said Bob Morrow, President of Local 1108. "Verizon has put profits over the safety of our neighborhoods. It's time for our utilities to worry more about Main Street and less about Wall Street. This bill will make sure of that."

"These double poles are eyesores for our community and dangers to pedestrians and motorists. This law will help to ensure that dangerous poles are not left unrepaired and improve the quality of our neighborhoods." Said Supervisor Mark Lesko.

The proposed legislation will require that for every new or replacement utility pole that is erected directly next to or in close proximity to an existing damaged utility pole in or upon a town Highway, the existing damaged pole must also be removed. Approval by the Town board for a public hearing to discuss adoption of this law is the first step toward eliminating these dangerous eye sores from town highways, promoting public safety and ensuring more visually pleasing roadways.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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