

Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Panico Announce Town's Quality of Life Task Force Action on Illegal Two-Family Home in Mastic

posted on 1/14/2011 11:38:47 AM

Farmingville, NY - On December 29, the Quality of Life Task Force took action on a non-owner occupied, illegal two-family dwelling located at 48 Dover Street in Mastic. Task Force investigators, who responded to a "walk-in" complaint, discovered that the home was divided into two apartments, one on the first floor and one on the second floor. Mold was present throughout the house and raw garbage and debris was scattered about. There was an expired permit from 2001 in the Town Building Department for the entire second floor, including a sunroom and an expired building permit for other interior alterations from 2001.

Investigators also reported that the tenants were using their ovens to heat most of the house, because the baseboard heating is nearly destroyed. There were no smoke detectors, no GFI outlets, no railings on the staircase leading to the second floor and numerous electrical outlets were hanging off the walls. Egress from the bedrooms was blocked by air conditioning units and furniture, and some windows were inoperable or broken. The only entrance to an outdoor deck and sunroom is through a second floor bathroom. Investigators also found that there were three electric meters on the house, an unregistered vehicle in the yard and a discarded refrigerator in the rear with the doors still on it. Law Investigators already served nine appearance tickets, seven of which are misdemeanors, for failure to submit rental registration, an unregistered vehicle, outdoor storage of appliances, alterations without permits and CO's, and illegal conversion to a two-family dwelling. Task Force investigators contacted Suffolk County Social Services to help relocate the tenants. The court date is February 24.

"2010 was a very successful year for the Task Force and it was active right up to the end," said Supervisor Mark Lesko. "The action taken on this property is evidence that the Town will continue to aggressively pursue those who violate our code, disregard the health and safety of our residents and exploit those who must live in these deplorable conditions. They will work even harder in the upcoming year to help improve the quality of life for residents throughout Brookhaven Town."

"The message to those who exploit are community is clear; Brookhaven will not tolerate those who break up houses into illegal apartments, boarding houses, and exploit the surrounding areas," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "From my first day in office I have made it a priority to clean up our communities block by block and house by house. By riding along block by block with our Quality of Life Task Force, our public safety department, police department, community leaders, and town investigators to identify and remedy problem properties we are taking back our streets. In less than a year in office we have made major improvements, and this effort will continue in 2011"

If residents believe that a property is in violation of any Town of Brookhaven codes, they can call 451-TOWN to file a complaint.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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