

# Panico Opposes the Appointment Of Political Vice-Chairmen as Appointed Officials

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**Farmingville, NY** - In what can only be characterized as a patronage appointment, Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico opposed the resolution submitted by Brookhaven Town Supervisor Mark Lesko to appoint Michael Conroy, the 2nd Vice Chairman of the Suffolk County Democratic Party as a Bingo Inspector for the Town of Brookhaven. Mr. Conroy joins John Byrne, the former chairman of the Brookhaven Town Democratic Party as the second political chairman to currently serve as a Bingo Inspector for the Town.

The appointment of Bingo Inspectors was made a public process by Councilman Dan Panico who weeks ago introduced a resolution to vest authority to make these appointments with the Town Board. These appointments were previously made by the Town Clerk behind closed doors. The Town of Brookhaven currently has one chief inspector and six inspectors that oversee Town regulated gambling, wagering, and games of chance as authorized under applicable State and local laws.

A vacancy was recently created in the position of bingo inspector due to resignation of Thomas LaCarrubba, father of James LaCarrubba who was recently hired by the Brookhaven Town Highway Department as a Deputy. This hiring would have been subject to a public hearing because of Councilman Panico's Anti-Nepotism law that passed mid-spring 2010; however upon the resignation of Thomas, James could be hired into an exempt class title without the necessity of a hearing.

"Since taking office less than a year ago I have worked hard to take the politics and patronage out of Town Hall. This is the government office, and should not be treated like a hiring hall for the politically connected. The fact that the Supervisor would offer such an appointment is reprehensible conduct for which he and the supporters of this appointment should be ashamed," commented Councilman Dan Panico. "This is not a case of the appointment being a person of a different political party than my own. In fact, I am on record earlier this year and have spoken out publicly against that proposed appointment of a former political boss as an appointed official on the Town ethics board. Political bosses do not belong as appointed officials in the Town of Brookhaven; regardless of party affiliation."

Councilman Panico spoke out against the proposed appointment of former Republican leader as a member of the Town of Brookhaven Ethics Board.

A motion to table this resolution was made by Councilman Panico that was defeated by a vote of 4-3 prior to a vote on the substantive motion.

"What is particularly galling about this situation is that I made a motion to table this resolution to evaluate whether we actually even need 7 bingo inspectors whose salaries total \$112,000 and whose revenue is only \$60,000, but that was defeated by those who knew that further scrutiny of the situation would likely lead to a different outcome. People should understand that unlike the conventional work-session and meeting schedule that affords five days between the formal introduction of resolutions and the meeting, this schedule had barely 24 hours in-between work-session and meeting," commented Panico.

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

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