

Councilman Mazzei Launches Brookhaven's New 'BIG' IDEA

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Partnership with Workforce to Improve Services and Streamline Government Costs Takes Off in March

Farmingville, NY - Starting on March 1, 2011, Brookhaven will be extending an invitation to every employee to participate in its first ever IDEA Award. The goal of the IDEA Award is to produce ideas that will yield savings while also improving the way government operates.

"Our goal for 2011 will be to help build a new foundation for Brookhaven, and in doing so, reform our government so that it is more transparent, more efficient, and more creative in providing solutions to today's challenges," explained Councilman Tim Mazzei, sponsor of the unanimously approved IDEA program.

The IDEA Award (Initiatives to Determine Efficient Action) fulfills this commitment by enabling Brookhaven employees from all departments to submit their ideas for efficiencies and savings.

Councilman Mazzei continued, "We wish to draw on those who know government best to improve how government works. Bearing in mind, that some of the best ideas often come from our frontline workers, not just management, we have established a program and invite all Brookhaven employees to submit their ideas on how their department can save money and perform better."

An eight member committee with representatives from various departments including; the Office of the Town Council and Town Supervisor, will review employee ideas submitted via a new and secure website, www.brookhaven.org/idea. The IDEA Committee will review submissions and a winner will be determined on a quarterly basis. Submissions to the IDEA committee will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Does the idea reduce costs in a way that is concrete and quantifiable?
- Does the idea improve the way Brookhaven operates by improving the quality of output at lower costs?
- Does the idea improve the way Brookhaven operates by improving the speed of governmental operations to improve efficiency?
- Does the idea have a tangible impact on the residents' lives or environment?
- Is there a clear and practical plan for implementing the idea?

"This new program encourages people at every level of Town government to get involved and make a difference," said Supervisor Mark Lesko. "I'm excited about the potential savings generated by the IDEA Awards and expect to see some very innovative ideas from our employees."

"Gathering the institutional knowledge of our employees will be a tremendous benefit to the efficient operations of government," concurred Deputy Supervisor Kathy Walsh.

IDEA winners will receive an award and special recognition at a town board meeting. Rewards also include; a designated parking spot, a position on the IDEA committee, and a plaque will be placed in Town Hall listing all IDEA Award winners.

"The hardworking employees of the Town of Brookhaven are a resource that needs to be tapped for their knowledge and input on issues from cost-cutting measures and government efficiencies to new ideas for our Town," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "I applaud the IDEA initiative and commend Councilman Mazzei for his willingness to reach out to the people who make our great Town proud on a daily basis."

"Responsiveness in government is critical to me, so soliciting the ideas of the dedicated and talented town employees is an excellent initiative. Surely those who interact daily with our citizens and provide the services have constructive insights that can provide time and cost benefits for Brookhaven Town," stated Councilwoman Jane Bonner.

"I am happy to support an initiative that looks for ways to save tax dollars," acknowledged Superintendent of Highways John Rouse. "By engaging our workforce with this program we will be taking 'Ideas' from the people who are

best able to identify savings that management may miss. I look forward to seeing all the great suggestions that this process will bring forward."

"I support in-house programs such as these," said Louis Marcoccia Receiver of Taxes, "an important tool for any organization in the public or private sector is to go to the frontline sources for a ground level view of operations and seek ideas from their unique perspective; in doing so we can make the best use of all views as we continue to develop innovative successful strategies to serve our taxpayers while making the best use of their hard earned dollars."

Funding for these incentives were made possible through generous contributions from each of Brookhaven's elected offices; including each office of the Town Council, Town Supervisor Mark Lesko, Town Clerk Patricia Eddington, Highway Superintendent John Rouse and Receiver of Taxes Lou Marcoccia.

For additional information please visit, www.brookhaven.org/committees/ideacommitee .