Romaine, Panico Join State, County and Local Officials in Calling for Fire Island Dune Restoration

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Farmingville, NY - Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilman Dan Panico joined State, County and local elected officials in calling for the federal government to protect shoreline communities by expediting the rebuilding of dunes on Fire Island to a height of at least 15 feet. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers currently has a plan for dune replenishment to take place in 2014, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife is preventing the sand from being higher than nine feet. Romaine, Panico and the other officials are concerned that an over-wash across the barrier island during a storm would devastate homeowners along the south shore. Areas such as Mastic Beach are especially vulnerable because of significant dune erosion at Smith Point, which is across Moriches Bay from the shoreline community. Pictured at Smith Point are Supervisor Ed Romaine, Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning, Councilman Dan Panico, Mastic Beach Village Mayor Bill Biondi, Assemblyman Ed Hennessey, and NY State Senator Lee Zeldin.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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