

Councilwoman Cartright Hosts Town Hall Forum

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Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright (right) addresses residents at the Verizon FiOS Town Hall Forum. Seated left to right are Supervisor Ed Romaine, Councilwoman Cartright's Legislative Aide Jennifer Martin, Councilwoman Connie Keper and Assemblyman Steve Eglebright.

Farmingville, NY - Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright hosted a Town Hall Forum on Saturday, February 1, regarding the prospect of Verizon FiOS coming to Brookhaven. Hundreds of people attended the forum which was standing room only. The meeting presented an opportunity for residents, community organizations, labor unions and elected officials to come together, express opinions and voice questions and concerns about the prospect of bringing the complete Verizon FiOS service packages to the entire Town of Brookhaven.

Supervisor Ed Romaine gave the introduction while Councilwoman Cartright facilitated the Town Hall Forum, acknowledging the numerous elected officials who attended to show their support for Verizon FiOS coming to Brookhaven. The elected officials in attendance included New York State Senator Phil Boyle, New York State Assemblymen Steve Eglebright, Andrew Garbarino, Al Graf and Edward Hennessy. Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and members of the Suffolk County Legislature, including Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory and Legislators Kate Browning, Robert Calarco and William Lindsay, III were also in attendance, along with Mastic Beach Mayor Bill Biondi and former Trustee Bob Morrow.

Councilwoman Cartright acknowledged and thanked the Communication Workers of America (CWA), who had a key role in organizing and coordinating the event. A number of speakers from the community voiced opinions on behalf of their respective organizations and/or themselves. The message conveyed was overwhelming support for Verizon FiOS service for all Brookhaven residents. The most frequently cited reasons were the need to promote industry competition, to give residents a choice of providers, and to generate additional jobs within the Town. "My office received feedback that there is a great deal of community interest in Verizon. As the newly appointed Utilities liaison, I, along with Supervisor Romaine, wanted to provide an opportunity for the community to be heard on this issue. It is unfortunate that Verizon did not accept our invitation to participate in this forum," Councilwoman Cartright said.

Councilwoman Cartright encouraged attendees to let neighbors, family, and friends know that they can continue to send emails and letters regarding this issue directly to Verizon. In addition, the video recording of the forum along with all written community feedback received by Councilwoman Cartright's office will be sent to Verizon.

"As Town Supervisor, I have been and continue to be ready to discuss a franchise agreement with all interested

parties, as I believe competition in the marketplace is always a good thing for our residents. The entire Town Board encourages Verizon to take the steps necessary to provide FiOS to all residents of Brookhaven," stated Supervisor Ed Romaine.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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