

Supervisor Romaine Announces the "Dirty Dozen": 12 Unsafe Structures Targeted for Demolition by Town

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Farmingville, NY - At a press conference today, Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine (right) announced the "Dirty Dozen," 12 vacant houses targeted for demolition by the Town. These structures, which have become dangerous eyesores and a detriment to the quality of life in the community, have received numerous violations issued by the Town's Building and Law Departments. The houses will be demolished by the Town in accordance with Chapter 73 of the Town Code which provides a "fast track" to rid neighborhoods of unsafe structures. The cost of demolition and debris removal is the responsibility of the property owner. The Town places a lien on the property that is then placed on the tax bill. The County reimburses the Town and they collect the money from the property owner. Joining the Supervisor at the press conference was Councilman Kevin LaValle (left). The Town estimates that there are approximately 2000 vacant houses in Brookhaven. Immediately after the press conference, the vacant, burned-out house located at 26 Berkeley Avenue in Selden was demolished by the Town of Brookhaven.

The "Dirty Dozen" listed below, includes properties from every Council District in Brookhaven Town:

1. 25 Devoe Place, Mastic
2. 33 Ashwood Drive, Shirley
3. 131 Bedford Avenue, Mastic
4. 10 Murray Lane, Coram
5. 2808 John Roe Smith Avenue, Medford
6. 1 Seacliff Avenue, Miller Place
7. 6 Frank Street, Patchogue
8. 26 Gabon Lane, Coram
9. 22 Sundial Lane, Bellport
10. 9 Middle Island Road, Yaphank
11. 5 Parnet Court in Port Jefferson Station

Supervisor Ed Romaine said, "The 'Dirty Dozen' are some of the most notorious, unsafe houses in the Town. They pose a danger to the community and have a severe impact on property values in the neighborhood. We will no longer allow these houses to diminish the quality of life of our residents while the property owners let them fall into disrepair. I commend our Law and Building Departments for their joint effort to help clean up Brookhaven Town and crack down on those who violate our Town codes."

Councilman LaValle said, "I applaud Supervisor Romaine for his commitment to rid our community of these dangerous eyesores. All it takes is one vacant home like this to have an adverse effect on a neighborhood and bring down the property values of all the nearby homes. I urge residents to report vacant homes on the Town's website before they fall into disrepair and we will act on it."

Since taking office, Supervisor Romaine has spearheaded initiatives to battle vacant house issues all across the Town. In December 2013, the Town Board voted unanimously to adopt the Supervisor's legislation which created a vacant building registry. The law requires the owners of vacant property to register with the Town of Brookhaven, and provide a local point of contact for the party responsible for maintaining the property. The failure or refusal of any property owner to register a vacant building within 30 days after they become due will result in a fine of \$1,000 to \$15,000 for each failure or refusal to register. It is modeled after similar vacant home registries that have been adopted by municipalities across the nation in response to the foreclosure crisis.

In May of this year, The Supervisor announced the launch of a new Town web page and mobile app for residents to report vacant homes and commercial properties. Residents can go to the Town's website at www.brookhaven.org/vacanthouse and follow the easy steps to submit their report. The information will be immediately entered into a centralized database which the Law Department will use to investigate. Residents can also report a vacant house by calling call 451-TOWN (8696), Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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