

Supervisor Romaine and Councilwoman Keperl Oversee House Demolition in Bellport

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Farmingville, NY – On September 15, Supervisor Ed Romaine (center) and Councilwoman Connie Keperl (left) were on hand during the demolition of a vacant house located 39 Carver Blvd in Bellport. The house, an eyesore in the neighborhood for many years, had a long history of violations dating back to 2004, including building without a permit, illegal apartment, broken windows and property maintenance. It was 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. The Town estimates that there are approximately 2000 vacant houses in Brookhaven. Also pictured is Frank Tassone (right) from the Town's Department of Waste Management.

Supervisor Ed Romaine said, "Houses like this one pose a danger to the community and have a severe impact on property values in the neighborhood. We are averaging about one demolition per week and will continue to remove many more of these eyesores. I commend our Law, Building and Waste Management Departments for working together to help clean up Brookhaven Town."

"The house at 39 Carver Boulevard in Bellport has been a vacant, dilapidated eyesore for many years, and I am happy to see it finally taken down," stated Councilwoman Connie Keperl. "My office has worked with Town Law, Building, and Waste Management Departments to address numerous complaints of overgrown grass, property maintenance, broken windows, and garbage on this abandoned property throughout the years. I commend the Supervisor and members of the Town Board for working aggressively to remove blighted, structurally unsound homes."

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 2014, the Supervisor launched the new Town web page and mobile app for residents to report vacant homes and commercial properties. Residents can go to www.brookhaven.org/vacanthouse and follow the easy steps to submit their report. The information is 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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