It’s Two-fer-Tuesday in Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilman Dan Panico Oversee Demolition of “Zombie” House in Shirley – the First in the New Year

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Farmingville, NY – It was Two-fer Tuesday in the Town of Brookhaven today when Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilman Dan Panico oversaw the demolition of two houses, back-to-back. A long time eyesore located at 53 Rugby Drive West in Shirley, and the Town-acquired house at 58 Diana Drive in the Village of Mastic Beach.

Both demolitions are part of the Town's continued commitment to rid neighborhoods of problematic structures. Vacant for at least 8 years, 53 Rugby Drive was notorious for squatters and was in imminent danger of collapse, with several holes in the roof, floor, and missing stair cases. The house was demolished 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 house at 58 Diana Drive, which had also been inhabited by squatters, was one of 16 homes acquired by the Town through New York Rising that will now be preserved as wetlands.

Supervisor Romaine said, “I am happy to once again join Councilman Panico as he works to improve the quality of life in the community. We demolished 36 houses in 2015 and we will continue our efforts in 2016 to help clean up the Town, one neighborhood at a time.”

"We do not make the decision to demolish a home lightly," noted Councilman Panico. "But when it qualifies under the law, we do everything in our power to rid our communities of these unsightly structures."

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