

NEWS FROM DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER

ROB CALARCO



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CALARCO FILMS OPIATE ADDICTION DOCUMENTARY *German Public Television Network "ARD" Highlights Pills Addiction*



Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco with film crew at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center.

EAST PATCHOGUE, N.Y. – Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco will be featured in a documentary highlighting the opiate addiction crisis by German Public Television Network ARD. ARD contacted Deputy Presiding Officer Calarco last fall after reading about his legislation that attempts to hold the pharmaceutical companies responsible for the growing epidemic. ARD's nightly news audience is over 9 million German-

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speaking viewers.

“For too long pharmaceutical companies have reaped enormous profits at the expense of our residents,” stated Deputy Presiding Officer Calarco. “They have downplayed the addictive effects of their medications, and have led the medical community to believe these highly addictive drugs are safe to prescribe for simple medical procedures. We’re seeing growing numbers of patients who immediately get hooked on prescription pain killers and when their prescription runs out they switch to illegal opiates like heroin,” he continued.

Opiate addiction is also a growing issue in Europe, which led to ARD’s interest in Deputy Presiding Officer Calarco’s legislation. In order to understand the full effect of the epidemic, ARD visited an emergency room, the Suffolk County Police Department and spoke with former addicts and family members of addicts.

“I thank ARD for bringing this issue to a worldwide audience,” said Deputy Presiding Officer Calarco. “This is one of the toughest issues facing Suffolk County and, it seems, other countries. By bringing this issue out in the open, we can begin to find real solutions to this overwhelming problem.”



Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco speaking with Dr. Sydney DeAngelis, Director of Emergency Medicine at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center.

Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco represents the 7th Legislative District which includes Patchogue, East Patchogue, North Patchogue, Medford and Gordon Heights. Smaller portions of Blue Point, Bellport, Middle Island Fire Island are also included in the District. He is Chairman of the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection committee, Vice Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, as well as a member of the Health Committee and the Ways & Means Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature.