



Monica R. Martinez
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, May 15th, 2015

Legislator Martinez Presents Proposal to Town Officials and Holds a Health and Legal Clinic at the Brentwood Public Library

Legislator Monica R. Martinez held a health and legal clinic for the community at the Brentwood Public Library on May 15, 2014. The forum was comprised of five distinguished panelists, among them were, Dr. Tomarken-Commissioner for Suffolk County Health Dept., Dr. Hafiz Ur Rehman-pediatrician, Dr. Jacqueline Moline-VP and Chair of Population Health of North LIJ Health System, Mr. Frederick Brewington, Esq.-attorney specializing in Civil Rights, personal injury and general practice and Mr. Joel Kupferman, Esq.- New York Environmental Law and Justice Project.

The forum was held in response to residents' concerns regarding the recent activity of illegal dumping at a local Town of Islip owned park, Roberto Clemente and what actions, if any, are being taken by the Town.

At a meeting held with Councilman Senft earlier in the week, Legislator Martinez urged the Town of Islip officials to meet with the Brentwood and Central Islip School Districts to explore additional recreational activities such as the pool at Ross High School in Brentwood and the pool at Central Islip High School. At the health and legal clinic, Legislator Martinez once again urged town officials to seek school districts as a viable source for additional recreational activities as an immediate response to the closure of the park. At that time, Councilman Senft stated he has set up an upcoming meeting with Superintendent Joe Bond of Brentwood.

Legislator Martinez also requested the Town of Islip officials be more transparent and more inclusive in their communication with the residents of Brentwood and Central Islip. Legislator Martinez requested they send out a "robo-call" paid by the Town, informing residents of their upcoming May 20, 2014 informational meeting on Roberto Clemente Park. She also requested any information disseminated should be in English and Spanish in an effort to be empathetic to the demographics found within the district.

In concluding the forum, Legislator Martinez reiterated her commitment to keep her constituents informed of future updates in regards to the investigation results. It has been reported that 32,000 tons of debris was dumped at the park, exposing residents to dangerous health risks. The District Attorney and the Department of Environmental Conservation are conducting a thorough investigation to determine the extent of hazardous material involved and the persons responsible for this egregious act.

She announced a future meeting will be held with community leaders to establish a plan to avoid this type of situation from occurring again and to assure those responsible are held accountable.