



Monica R. Martinez
Suffolk County Legislator, 9th District
Courthouse Corporate Center
320 Carleton Avenue, Suite 4300
Central Islip, NY 11722
(P) 631.853.3700 (F) 631. 853.3568

CONTACT: lisa.pinkard@suffolkcountyny.gov
vanessa.zepeda@suffolkcountyny.gov
luis.montes-brito@suffolkcountyny.gov

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Legislator Martinez Holds a Second Forum on the Illegal Dumping in the Town of Islip and Calls for a Task Force to Provide Solutions

Legislator Martinez organized a second community forum last Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at the Brentwood Public Library to update residents on the illegal dumping which took place within the 9th Legislative District. Legislator Martinez has taken the lead in defending the affected communities in which residents have been unfairly subjected to these unscrupulous acts, such as in the case of Roberto Clemente Park and the Sage and Rte. 111 sites. Approximately 150 residents of Brentwood and Central Islip gathered last Wednesday to hear from their elected officials as well as health and legal professionals.

At this forum, Legislator Martinez was accompanied by legislators William J. Lindsay III (LD8-Oakdale and Sayville) and Steve Stern (LD16-Deer Park and part of Brentwood). There were representatives from the offices of Senator Phil Boyle and Assemblyman Phil Ramos. Also present at the forum were representatives from the New York State and Suffolk County Department of Health, CEO Jeff Zsabo of Suffolk County Water Authority, Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director from Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Dr. Hafiz Rehman, pediatrician and Adam Kleinberg, Esq. with the law firm of Sokoloff Stern LLP who offered a myriad of help to the residents that were present. Legislator Martinez was also joined by Town of Islip councilmen Steve Flotteron and John Cochrane Jr.

The meeting addressed the most recent findings disclosed by the District Attorney's office where it was confirmed that various toxic materials had been found at multiple sites within the Town of Islip. Among the toxins found were pesticides DDT, Chromium, Cobalt, Nickel and heavy metals such as mercury and arsenic. Health professionals advised residents of the potential danger in such materials.

Legislator Martinez demanded that the Town of Islip work together for the benefit of the community. Legislator Martinez stated, "As elected officials, it is our responsibility to protect our residents by providing them with the necessary information and resources." "We need to work together, not against each other, so I ask you to communicate with me for the betterment of our constituents," added Legislator Martinez.

Legislator Martinez suggested the creation of a joint task force comprised of community leader/residents, church and school members as well as elected officials to "closely monitor and report any concerns regarding the illegal dumping." Legislator Martinez and Lindsay along with Councilman Flotteron agreed to work together for the enhancement of our community.