

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



Office of Suffolk County Legislator Kevin J. McCaffrey, 14th District

For Immediate Release
Date: September 17, 2015

Contact: Gregory Atherton
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LEGISLATOR MCCAFFREY HOSTS SECOND EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR ON HOME ELEVATION



Pictured: Legislator McCaffrey opens the presentation by providing attendees with a legislative update related to Superstorm Sandy.

Lindenhurst, NY: Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey (R-Lindenhurst) recently hosted an informational seminar on post-Superstorm Sandy home elevation. The seminar took place in the Lindenhurst Village Hall Courtroom, and marked the second time McCaffrey hosted a program of this kind.

After nearly three years since Superstorm Sandy touched down on Long Island, residents in the Town of Babylon continue to feel its destructive impact. While some homeowners have

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successfully repaired and raised their dwellings, too many have been left frustrated and lost in the tangled web that is the New York Rising storm recovery program.

Despite the challenges associated with securing funds through the state-run program, there is a method that can be applied to successfully navigate through it. Hence, calling the design professionals from PKAD – who have become notable experts with the ins and outs of New York Rising – to return and speak to those still immersed in the elevation process was a must.

“Having experts like Frank Gucciardo of PKAD walk us through the elevation process step by step was enlightening even to people who thought they were well-versed on the subject,” said McCaffrey. “It was heartbreaking to learn of people who just gave up in their quest to raise their house due to bureaucratic obstacles. Hopefully, after tonight’s presentation, people will continue their efforts.”

Gucciardo explained that elevation offers many pros, namely, resilience to future flooding and possible lower flood insurance premiums. According to FEMA, homeowners could potentially save in excess of \$90,000 over a ten year period if they elevate their homes three (3) feet above Base Flood Elevation.¹ Additionally, a raised home in a flood zone is more marketable and stabilized – or even improves – home values in a given neighborhood.

“Those who can benefit from New York Rising’s program deserve all the assistance they can get,” added McCaffrey. “Whether it is raising homes or bringing more awareness to preparedness, I will continue to advocate for the residents to avoid tragedies associated with future storm activity.”

Legislator McCaffrey represents Suffolk County’s 14th Legislative District which encompasses the Village of Lindenhurst, Babylon Village, the hamlets of West Babylon and North Lindenhurst, portions of Copiague, North Babylon, and Babylon’s barrier beach communities.

¹ Source: https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pdfs/fema_flood_brochure.pdf.