TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN

PRESS RELEASE

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Ground Breaking for the New Skate Park in the Town of Brookhaven

Farmingville, NY – Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Dan Panico were joined by Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning, Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine, Parks Commissioner Ed Morris, Deputy Commissioner Peter Cris, civic and community leaders, residents, some of the students that contributed to the design of the skate park and skate board enthusiasts at the ground breaking ceremony for the new Town of Brookhaven Skate Park located behind the Town of Brookhaven Aquatic Center. The new state-of-the-art facility will include Hubba Ledges, China Bank Sections, Rainbow Rails, Grind Rails and more. Construction of the park is being done by Brookhaven Town-based Residential Fence and Laser Industries of Ridge, owned by Anthony and Mario Gulino. The projected opening date for the skate park is the end of November 2010.

The cost of the new park will be paid through a $250,000 grant from Suffolk County and $250,000 in capitol funding by the Town, which was secured through the efforts of Councilman Dan Panico and the late Councilman Keith Romaine who was one of the driving forces behind the project and who found the location where the park will be built. Romaine worked to get the skate park off the ground and included the students from the William Floyd High School Skate and BMX Committee, who provided invaluable input into the design features with the support of Assistant Superintendent Janet Gilmor and Superintendent Dr. Paul Casciano.

"We are pleased to have worked closely with the town in identifying the location for this worthwhile recreational facility." Said Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy.

"Suffolk County made a commitment over five years ago to construct a skate park in this area," stated Legislator Browning. "Today we have fulfilled that commitment in partnership with Brookhaven Town. This is the best location for our children and community. I want to thank Councilman Panico and Supervisor Lesko for making this a reality, and it's a great example of two levels of government coming together for the betterment of our communities."

Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine said "I'm happy to see this project that my son worked his entire tenure in office with local community residents and kids on this project. My son fought hard to keep the funds in the 2009 and 2010 budgets. I especially want to thank his successor Councilman Dan Panico who worked to make sure this project came to fruition today."

"This new skate park has been a dream for kids throughout Brookhaven Town and now it will be a reality," said Supervisor Lesko. "Skateboarding continues to grow in popularity and it's important that the Town provide a safe environment for those who enjoy the sport. This was a real community effort and I thank everyone who helped to make it possible. When this is completed, it will be one of the best skate facilities on Long Island."

Councilman Dan Panico said, "I will continue to work collectively to improve our community across party lines and with the input of the people I represent. This is a wonderful day and marks the culmination of the collective work of many, namely of the late Councilman and my friend Keith Romaine."

For more information about the Town of Brookhaven Parks department and our facilities, visit www.brookhaven.org.

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