

~ PRESS INVITED ~

Wednesday, December 28

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATORS
JACK EDDINGTON and KATE BROWNING
LEGISLATOR-ELECT ROB CALARCO**

In Conjunction With
The Greater Bellport Coalition
Announces

ShotSpotter is on the Job and Fighting Crime in North Bellport



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 28, 2011

Contact: Sarah Hartmann
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- WHO:** Legislators Jack Eddington, Kate Browning, Legislator-Elect Rob Calarco, Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Connie Kepert and members from the Bellport community.
- WHAT:** To announce that ShotSpotter, the elite crime-fighting tool, has been installed and is on the job in the North Bellport Community.
- WHEN:** Wednesday, December 28, noon.
- WHERE:** At the Alvin Brothers Bench Memorial located at the corner of Station Road and Patchogue Avenue. Traveling on Station Road south from Sunrise Highway, the memorial is on the right hand side of the road and is very clearly landmarked with flowers, stuffed animals and wooden bench.
- WHY:** ShotSpotter, the high-tech crime-fighting system with a proven track-record of aiding law enforcement in responding to incidents where gunfire has occurred, has been installed and is currently on the job protecting North Bellport residents. The system receivers are located primarily on street light stanchions within the one-mile radius that comprises North Bellport. Within seconds of any gunfire, the system will triangulate the location of the gunfire, indicate the type and number of weapons involved, and alert police.

For far too long the North Bellport Community has been plagued with crime. In August 2007, fifteen-year-old Alvin Brothers was killed in a drive-by shooting on a North Bellport street corner. The shooter was never apprehended. If the ShotSpotter system had been in place then, it is likely police would have been able to respond quickly and catch the killer.

BACKGROUND:

In recent years, crime has escalated in violence with the use of guns. According to a study by the SCPD, North Bellport had 15 gun crimes in nine months in 2010, including seven victims shot. In that same period, however, only one weapons arrest was made. Further, residents have testified before the Legislature that they are afraid to run errands in the community after dark or turn their back on the street to carry groceries from their cars into their homes because of the increased gun violence. They also testify that gun shots are common place in the community but underreported.

The need for a ShotSpotter system in North Bellport has been championed by Chair of Public Safety, Leg. Jack Eddington and Leg. Kate Browning. Leg. Eddington was able to work with the Knapp-Swezey Foundation, a private donor that stepped forward to provide \$120,000 in funding in order to make ShotSpotter a reality for the North Bellport community. The Greater Bellport Coalition chipped in \$80,000 from the Caithness Power Plant Community Benefit Funds secured by Councilwoman Kepert.

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