

# COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

**KATE BROWNING**

County Legislator, 3rd District  
Public Safety Committee, Chair



COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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## Media Release

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## *Legislator Browning Eliminates 96 Problem Homes Since 2009 Focus on Quality of Life Paying Dividends*

**Mastic, NY** – Targeting problem homes throughout Suffolk County’s Third Legislative District has been a priority of Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) since taking office in 2006. Although housing code and enforcement is the jurisdiction of local Towns and Villages, Legislator Browning has utilized the resources of her office with great results. Since taking office the legislator has successfully evicted problem tenants with the help of the Suffolk County Sheriff’s office and/or closed illegal homes. In total over 100 homes have been eliminated, 96 of them since 2009.

“The quality of life for the residents I represent, and the community I live in, is always my number one concern,” stated Legislator Browning. “While it may be easier to simply ignore housing problems because the County has no jurisdiction over housing, I believe it is my responsibility as an elected official to advocate and use whatever resources I have at my disposal when resident’s contact me for help. My office has been very successful in addressing the negative impacts of certain homes, whether it is criminal or civil, and I will continue to make it a priority.”

Illegal housing and a high concentration of problem rentals has plagued the third legislative district for decades. In particular, the communities of Mastic, Mastic Beach, Shirley and North Bellport have been negatively impacted. Prior to being elected in 2006, Legislator Browning was a school bus driver in the William Floyd School District for 18 years, and she saw the deterioration of the community from years of neglect. It was one of the main reasons she decided to run for office.

“I knew that so many neighborhoods were being ignored by our elected officials, so I decided to do something about it,” stated Legislator Browning. “It is not easy to reverse problems that grow over decades, but with a strong working relationship with the Town of Brookhaven, I believe we are seeing a difference. When over 100 homes have been addressed it definitely starts to have a positive impact.”

A list of hamlets with the amount of homes that have been closed or tenants evicted are as follows:

Mastic Beach – 28

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Shirley – 27

North Bellport – 10

Middle Island – 1

If you know of a problem home Legislator Browning is urging residents to contact her office at 631-852-1300. It is important to document issues as they arise, so always call the Suffolk County Police Department if you believe there is illegal activity at a home. Police reports are an effective tool for the legislator to use and help lead to evictions and/or arrests. Drug activity, gangs, squatters, illegal apartments and unsafe conditions are some of the most common reasons a home is targeted and should be reported immediately.

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