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FROM THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATOR ROB CALARCO

***Teams Brave Stormy Weather, Torrential Rain to Play for Peace
Proceeds Going to Patchogue-Medford Library Cultural Awareness Programs***



Patchogue, LI—Saturday, July 28: Despite periods of torrential rain, the 4th Annual Play for Peace Soccer Tournament took place last Saturday at the Patchogue-Medford Youth Soccer Complex on Sipp Avenue in Medford. Fourteen teams gathered on the fields in high spirits, practicing in the downpour as a way to kill time until the delayed opening ceremonies and the first game could begin.

Within an hour, the rain abated enough for the three divisions to begin play. In the Unity Division were the four women's teams; in the Peace Division were six men's recreational teams; and in the Pride Division were four men's competitive teams. Teams organized locally but also came from as far as Nassau County and beyond to participate.

This year saw more teams and sponsors than ever before. Sponsors, including Bridgehampton National Bank and Gershow Recycling, both prime sponsors, and Swirls and Twirls Frozen Yogurt showed up to support the event, despite the uncooperative weather. Other prime sponsors included TRITEC Real Estate and the Suffolk County PBA. Along with Swirls and Twirls Frozen Yogurt, team sponsors also included Tropical Smoothie Café; Long Island Latino Teachers Association; Port Jeff Sports; and the Pita House. Sponsors like J. Signs, Inc.; the Brookhaven-Roe YMCA; AVOICE/Bias HELP; and the Patchogue-Medford Congress of Teachers have consistently supported the event from the beginning.

Each team was guaranteed three games at the end of which ‘Soccer Mafia’ sponsored by Bridgehampton National Bank won the women’s Unity Division; the Unathletics sponsored by AVOICE won in Division Peace, the men’s recreational division; and the Pita House sponsored by the same won in Division Pride, the men’s competitive division. Sportsmanship awards went to team YMCA in the men’s recreational division; team Bellport Blasters in the men’s competitive division; and team Saved the Tourney in the women’s Unity division.

“Despite lousy weather, we had a great tournament. So many of the players embraced the true goal of the day, to promote tolerance and acceptance of all cultures. And thanks to our generous sponsors, we will be able to make a sizeable contribution to the Patchogue-Medford Library for their numerous cultural awareness and assimilation programs,” said Leg. Calarco.

“Gershow Recycling is pleased again to support this year’s “Play for Peace.” We salute former Legislator Eddington for establishing this event and Legislator Calarco for continuing it, as an effort to bring members of our diverse communities together and build understanding through sports,” said Kevin Gershowitz, President, Gershow Recycling.

“Bridgehampton National Bank is proud to be part of this initiative to bring the Patchogue community together in friendship and support. As a community bank, we have seen how local people working together can make a difference, this tournament is a wonderful example of a successful partnership,” said Howard H Nolan, Chief Financial Officer, Bridgehampton National Bank.

“We are happy to offer our support to Legislator Calarco and pleased to be a small part of the Play for Peace Soccer Tournament in an effort to help bring culturally diverse communities together supporting peace, unity and sportsmanship.” Rob Loscalzo, Chief Operating Officer, TRITEC Real Estate Company, Inc.