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County of Suffolk

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FROM THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATOR ROB CALARCO

Ground Broken on Future Home of Historic Carnegie Library; Calarco, Bellone Instrumental in Securing New Location

Patchogue, LI—Wednesday May 1, 2013: Legislator Rob Calarco and County Executive Steve Bellone were joined recently by joyful community members on the northwest corner of the Suffolk County Sixth District Court property, to celebrate the groundbreaking for the new location of Patchogue's historic Carnegie Library. The library, constructed in 1908 but vacant for the last fifteen years, was thrown into peril when TRITEC began construction on its New Village development. At the ceremony yesterday, Patchogue Village Mayor Paul Pontieri lauded TRITEC's tremendous financial commitment to saving the building, estimating the developers have invested up to \$500,000 in moving the library to a new location.

Legislator Calarco, who hatched the plan to relocate the Carnegie Library onto the County Court property over a year ago while meeting with Mayor Pontieri, said, "When I came up with the idea to move the Library onto the Court property, I knew it would take some work to get it done. But with perseverance and the support of County Executive Bellone and Mayor Pontieri— we were able to save the library. Not only is the library safe, but this location, right on the west end of Main Street, will allow it to serve as an outstanding gateway into downtown Patchogue."

County Executive Steve Bellone, a steadfast supporter of the project since Legislator Calarco first approached him with the idea, was on-hand for yesterday's festivities and stated, "Relocating this historic structure accomplishes two purposes – it will save an important piece of our shared architectural history while making way for an important economic development project that will benefit the village for many years to come. I applaud Legislator Calarco for his

commitment to ensuring that the Carnegie Library be preserved and remain in Patchogue and thank TRITEC for being a true community partner.

Mayor Paul Pontieri, who worked tirelessly to save the library and secure a new occupant led yesterday's ceremonies and said, "Today is a great day for the entire community. To see the historic Carnegie Library returned to use as a library again is a better result than I imagined when I first started working to save the library over a year ago."

The Patchogue-Medford Library, the original tenants of the Carnegie Library, will again occupy the historic structure; this time around it will serve as the new home to the young adult department. Executive Director Dina McNeece-Chrils expressed the Library's excitement about the upcoming project, "The Library Board of Trustees is pleased to be able to be involved with this project and truly is looking forward to restoring the building."

The Village of Patchogue is coordinating the construction of the new foundation and the final move of the Carnegie Library onto its new location. The building is set to move onto its new location in the next several weeks.

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Pictured, left to right: Patchogue Village Trustee Thomas E. Ferb, Patchogue Village Deputy Mayor John A. Krieger, Patchogue Village Trustee Joseph E. Keyes, Patchogue Village Trustee Gerard J. Crean, Patchogue-Medford Library Executive Director Dina McNeece-Chrils, Patchogue Village Mayor Paul V. Pontieri, Jr., Suffolk County Legislator Robert T. Calarco, Suffolk County Executive Steven Bellone, Patchogue Village Trustee William Hilton