

NEWS FROM LEGISLATOR

ROB CALARCO



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

[Amy Keyes](#)

Office:

(631) 854-1400

-MEDIA RELEASE-

PATCHOGUE BLOOD DRIVE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED; DRIVE ORGANIZED BY CALARCO IS POISED TO SAVE LIVES

Patchogue, LI—Tuesday, July 16, 2013: Legislator Rob Calarco announced the Patchogue Blood Drive will take place on July 23, 2013 at the Patchogue Fire House from 2-8 P.M. Blood drives are essential for all communities since blood transfusions are needed for a large number of people. Since blood has a limited shelf life, it is important to donate whenever possible to help those who greatly require those blood transfusions to live.

Legislator Calarco strongly encourages those interested in donating to attend the Patchogue Blood Drive. The Long Island Blood services, a division of the New York Blood Center, states, “Our region suffers from a shortage of local blood donors, and less than ideal donor frequency (those who donate don’t do so often enough). Only 2% of our population donates blood each year, compared to the national average of 5%. Long Island Blood Services is forced to import 25% of our blood products from other blood centers in the United States, because we can’t independently meet the demand.” Long Island hospitals require almost 800 pints of blood every day just to meet daily needs. However, unexpected disasters require more. When broken down

Robert Calarco, Legislator, 7th District
90 West Main Street, Suite 2N
Patchogue, New York 11772
Tel: (631) 854-1400
Fax: (631) 854-1403



into its components (red blood cells, plasma, platelets), a single donation can help save up to four lives.

Most people within our community are physically able to donate. Individuals aged 16-75 with a minimum weight of 110 lbs. are able to donate blood (16 year olds must have parental consent - available at nybloodcenter.org). A valid photo or signature ID is required. Those who have acquired tattoos within the past 12 months are ineligible to donate. Also, it is important that all donors remember to eat well and drink fluids before donating.

Donating blood is a quick process. First, volunteers will ask a few questions about your health. Next, a mini-physical will be conducted to make sure you are healthy enough to donate. This will consist of checking blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and iron level. Once you are deemed well enough to donate blood, you will then proceed to the donating area, where your arm will be cleaned with an antiseptic and your blood is collected using only new sterile, disposable supplies. After the blood is drawn, refreshments are available for donors to enjoy.

As a member of the Health Committee within the Suffolk County Legislature, Legislator Calarco emphasizes how important events such as the Patchogue Blood Drive are for the health of the community. With such a shortage on Long Island, donors are greatly appreciated. To sign up to donate, call Legislator Calarco's office at 631-854-1400 to schedule your appointment.

Suffolk County Legislator Rob Calarco represents the 7th Legislative District which includes Patchogue, East Patchogue, North Patchogue, and Medford. Smaller portions of Blue Point, Bellport, Coram, Farmingville, Holtsville, Ronkonkoma, and Fire Island are also included in the District. He is Chairman of the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection committee, Vice Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, as well as a member of the Health Committee and the Ways & Means Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature.