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April 30, 2013

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FROM THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATOR ROB CALARCO

Legislator Rob Calarco and Councilwoman Connie Kepert Join Forces with Community on Gun Buy Back in North Bellport

Suffolk County Legislator Calarco and Councilwoman Kepert will be sponsoring a gun buy back at the Lighthouse Mission in North Bellport on Saturday May 11th from 9 am to 12 pm. The purpose is to remove illegal guns from circulation, reduce accidental shootings, suicides, and enhance community safety.

Councilwoman Kepert and Legislator Calarco formed a committee on the gun buyback program in early February. The committee was comprised of several stakeholders in the community, including law enforcement, civic leaders and members of the faith based community. Over \$26,000 has been raised for the buy-back. Those funds will be used to offer cash to anyone in possession of an illegal gun. Semi-automatic, automatic, assault weapons, pistols and revolving handguns will be accepted. Rifles and high capacity clips will also be accepted.

“Our goal is to take illegal guns that could be used in a crime, so I encourage parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters that if someone in your home has an illegal weapon please turn it in. Too many people are killed every year due to gun violence, both intentional and accidental, and this is an opportunity for you to make a difference by turning in that firearm no questions asked,” stated Legislator Rob Calarco.

“Due to the shootings at Virginia Tech, Aurora Colorado, and most recently the tragedy at Sandy Hook everyone is acutely aware of the tragedies that occur when guns get into the wrong hands. Gun buy backs are a simple way to take illegal guns out of circulation and help to avoid future tragedies,” stated Councilwoman Kepert.

John Rogers, president of the Greater Bellport Coalition stated, “The buyback will help prevent more guns from getting on to the streets and will make the neighborhood safer.”

Suffolk County Police will have personnel on hand at the event to accept the guns and manage the event. The process will be completely anonymous where individuals will turn in their guns, receive a ticket that they will submit for the appropriate amount of cash.