

## PAID ADVERTISEMENT

**TOWN SUPERVISOR CANDIDATES STANCE ON RECREATIONAL FISHING**

16 March 2009

As many already know, the fishermen of Long Island have been denied access to fishing on a public beach known as Shoreham Beach in the Town of Brookhaven. With 153 miles of coastline in the Town of Brookhaven and only 14 legal locations to fish, this should be an outrage to all.

There have been thousands of letters, e-mails and phone calls to our local politicians and officials regarding this matter. However, none of them, as of yet, have stepped up on behalf of the fishermen; Shoreham Beach is still off limits to both fishermen and boaters.

On March 31, 2009, there will be a special election for the office of town supervisor for the Town of Brookhaven. This has led the New York Coalition for Recreational Fishing to send each candidate a questionnaire regarding their stance on recreational fishing within the Town of Brookhaven.

Listed below you will see the questions that were given to each candidate, along with their replies. (Each candidate was informed in writing that their responses to this questionnaire will be made public in the Long Island Fisherman and another local newspaper).

**#1. Do you believe that recreational fishing aids the economy for the Town of Brookhaven?**

Mr. Timothy Mazzei answered yes and did not provide any comment.

Mr. Mark Lesko answered yes and stated: "Recreational fishing is important to Brookhaven's economy because of the multiplier effect it has. The fact is that there is a whole industry in our town related to the fishing community and as elected officials we need to do all we can to keep that community vibrant. With all the regulations coming down from the National Marine Fisheries Service, it is more important than ever that local officials do all they can do to be supportive of this industry."

**#2. Are you in favor of increased fishing opportunities and additional fishing access within the Town of Brookhaven?**

Mr. Mazzei answered yes and stated: "One of the best things about Brookhaven is that we border the Sound and the bay. I have lived on the Great South Bay my whole life, boating and clamming since I was a little boy. We must work hard to continue our way of life and take advantage of where we live."

Mr. Lesko answered yes and stated "There is an important link between fishing and environmental conservation. There are no better stewards of our environment than fishermen, because they understand that only by protecting our natural resources can there be sustainability."

**#3. Are you willing to increase enforcement of existing codes and statutes in the town?**

Mr. Mazzei answered yes and stated: "That is our responsibility as town officials."

Mr. Lesko answered by stating: "I would need to sit down with the fishing community, community residents and enforcement staff when I become supervisor in order to gauge enforcement and the town code relating to fishing issues and what modifications may need to be made."

**#4. Are you in favor of a nonresident fishing permit to help aid the economy of the Town of Brookhaven?**

Mr. Mazzei answered yes and stated: "As long as it doesn't conflict with the health and well being of our residents."

Mr. Lesko answered by stating: "At this time I am not ready to commit to a nonresident permit. However, I would be interested in listening to the community as well as residents to discuss the parameters of such a permit and the impact it would have. I agree that Brookhaven offers some great fishing opportunities for nonresidents, and bringing people to experience our town would have a beneficial impact on our economy."

**#5. Would you be in favor of having a Recreational Fishing Advisory Board for the Town of Brookhaven?**

Mr. Mazzei answered yes and stated: "The more input the better."

Mr. Lesko answered yes and stated: "The way I make decisions is to listen to a broad variety of views and then make the best decisions possible based on the facts. A Recreational Fishing Advisory Board would be helpful to make the best decisions on issues like access, permitting and the town code."

The politicians need to realize, as fishermen we are vast in numbers and we vote. It is time for all of us to stand up for our rights. Violations of our rights cannot be tolerated any longer. Thank you in advance for publishing this letter.

Sincerely,

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