



TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NEWS

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RIVERHEAD CRACKS DOWN ON UNSAFE PROPERTIES- ISSUES OVER 100 VIOLATIONS

Supervisor Laura Jens-Smith joined by members of the Town Board, Code Enforcement Agents, the Fire Marshal, and the Town Attorney announced major action taken to bring downtown buildings up to town code and make these properties safe. With over 100 violations issued to properties in our downtown, this was the first time in 10 years that these buildings had been inspected.

Supervisor Jens-Smith said, "This is a safety issue, plain and simple. It is remarkable that these buildings have been allowed to go uninspected for 10 years. Especially as we are trying to revitalize our downtown, it is important that we know that there are safe buildings for businesses to move into. I want to thank the owners who have already acted to remedy the situation. The Town would like to work together with the property owners to come into compliance and we will be taking all necessary options to ensure that they do so. It is time that Riverhead reclaims its downtown."

This action was taken as part of Supervisor Jens-Smith's Code Enforcement Action Strategy, undertaken to tackle code violations in a systematic way to the benefit of our community.

Town Investigator Rich Downs said, "All properties inspected received deficiency notices with "comply by" dates. A handful of properties have already done work to remediate the deficiencies, others which have failed to remediate or communicate a plan have been sent "Order to Remedy Notices."

"As our community works towards Downtown Revitalization, it is imperative that blighted properties come into compliance. Blighted, vacant properties have long plagued our Main Street. We would like potential businesses to feel confident and safe when they are thinking of investing in this beautiful town." says Deputy Supervisor Catherine Kent.

This effort is the result of organized action, and bi-weekly meetings the Supervisor holds with our Code Enforcement Department, Fire Marshal's Office, Police Chief, and Town Attorney's Office to put Riverhead residents first.