

# Town Strengthens Its Ethics Code

BY BETSY ABRAHAM

BABRAHAM@ANTONMEDIAGROUP.COM

The Town of North Hempstead passed a slate of ethics reforms and a new anti-nepotism law last week, with reforms that include prohibitions on town employees having personal interests in town contracts or employing relatives of town-elected officials.

The new legislation was proposed by the town's ethics working group, comprised of Councilmembers Peter Zuckerman and Dina De Giorgio, Town Planning Commissioner Michael Levine, local attorney John Brickman and Rev. Charles Vogeley and Hon. Richard Kestenbaum. The purpose of the working group, which met for eight months, was to review the town's current ethics codes and policies with a goal of providing recommendations that would strengthen the town's ethics laws.

"These changes to our Code of Ethics and the anti-nepotism law will increase openness and transparency in our government and give taxpayers a sense of comfort and trust in their town government, its elected officials and those doing business with the town," said Supervisor Judi Bosworth.

Several officials in the Town of North Hempstead resigned or were fired due to corruption charges in the past several years, and with recent corruption charges forcing John Venditto to resign from his post at the helm of the Town of Oyster Bay and Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano facing bribery and extortion charges, many municipalities are taking another look at their existing ethics code. The Town of Oyster Bay also approved stronger ethics laws last week.

"Our new law takes the best from other jurisdictions and provisions that resolve issues that our town and other municipalities have recently faced," said Bosworth. "We're moving restrictions from policy to law, so they can be more effectively enforced."

Highlights of the new laws include requiring any conflict of interest be disclosed, and that town employees recuse themselves from any matter involving the conflict; prohibiting town employees from having any personal interest in town contracts or interests directly or indirectly connected with official duties; prohibiting employees from accepting outside employment that conflicts with their town position; clearer restrictions

on town employees receiving gifts; prohibiting town employees from taking part in the employment, discipline or supervision of a relative; prohibiting employment of relatives of town-elected officials; and requiring any potential conflict of interests be disclosed on the annual statement of financial disclosure to be investigated by the board of ethics.

Prior to the law's adoption, De Giorgio proposed an addition that would codify the use of the town attorney by the ethics board, as well as authorize them to find independent counsel. She added that the provision was similar to ones in the Huntington and Brookhaven town codes.

That addition was met by opposition from Zuckerman, who said he

believed the legislation was satisfactory as was presented and that to add something without the approval of the ethics committee was inappropriate. Ultimately, the addition was not voted on, but the ethics reform and anti-nepotism law was voted on unanimously.

"I, with each member of the board of ethics, take great pride in the work we have done over the years, and now we enjoy a new reaffirmation of what is best for our increased and strengthened review of the Code of Ethics and the anti-nepotism law," said Joseph Sciamie, chair of the town's board of ethics. "We continue with our high standards of review and provide to our town members continued transparency."

## Teen Advocate Advises Parents

### How To Raise Tweens and Teens Without Duct Tape

BY ELIZABETH JOHNSON

EJOHNSON@ANTONMEDIAGROUP.COM

Manhasset Coalition Against Substance Abuse (CASA) invites parents, caregivers and residents to its second Power of Parenting Presentation, Raising T(w)eens Without Using Duct Tape, at the Manhasset Public Library on Thursday, March 16, at 1 or 7:30 p.m.

The program features Kym Laube, executive director of Human Understanding Growth Services (HUGS) who has worked with teens for over 25 years. Laube will provide practical tips for parenting t(w)eens regarding child development, effective parent communication skills and how risk and protective factors affect healthy youth decision-making.

According to Laube, given all the temptations t(w)eens face in today's world, teaching our kids healthy decision-making skills is one of the best weapons parents can have to ensure t(w)eens make positive and healthy choices during adolescence. She is the president of the National Association of Teen Institutes and the Quality Consortium of Suffolk County and a member of the New



Kym Laube

York State Association of Substance Abuse Professionals' Prevention Committee, the NYS Public Policy Task Force, Suffolk County Partners in Prevention and was recently appointed to serve on New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo's Opiate Task Force.

The Power of Parenting Series is sponsored by the Honorable Jack M. Martins, Manhasset Public Library and Manhasset CASA. Mandarin translation is also available during the 7:30 p.m. presentation. Space is limited and registration is required through Manhasset CASA's website at [www.manhassetcasa.org](http://www.manhassetcasa.org). Also, make sure to like them on Facebook.



**Be in the KN with Anton News W**

## Your Community News

Plus Local Sports, Events, Classifieds and Much More!

**Subscribe Today!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if renewal

**CHECK TERM:**

☐ 3 Yrs. \$55 (35¢ Week)

☐ 2 Yrs. \$42 (40¢ Week)

☐ 1 Yr. \$26 (50¢ Week)

**METHOD OF PAYMENT:**

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_

☐ AMEX ☐ MC ☐ VISA

☐ DISCOVER ☐ CHECK ENCLOSED

(NO REFUNDS)

**Send to: Anton Media Group**

**Circulation Dept.**

**132 East Second Street,**

**Mineola, NY 11501**

Please add \$26 per year for delivery outside of Nassau County

**[www.subscribe.antonnews.com](http://www.subscribe.antonnews.com)**

**Call 516-747-8282**

166746 D