

# Sixth Annual Sustainability Conference

## Economic Growth and Recovery Workshop



*By empowering those who know their regions best, the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council identified opportunities and projects that were best positioned to create jobs now. Due to the Council's hard work, Long Island was recently awarded over \$101 million in State funding that will benefit numerous transformative projects Island-wide. This panel will highlight the process and success stories from the job market and discuss how this funding – along with additional development projects – are leading to financial recovery and growth in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties.*

### Moderator and Panelists

#### **Mitch Pally, Chief Executive Officer, Long Island Builders Institute**

Mitchell H. Pally was selected as chief executive officer of the Long Island Builders Institute - the largest home building trade association in New York State - in 2010. He had been affiliated with the Weber Law Group of Melville, New York, from 2006 to 2010. Prior to Weber he worked at the Long Island Association, the region's largest business and civic organization from 1985 as director of legislative and economic affairs and in 1992 became vice president for government affairs, responsible for all governmental and community affairs. Mr. Pally has also held a number of positions in the New York State Legislature. From 1975 to 1985, he served in various capacities to the New York State Senate Committee on Transportation and the Legislative Commission on Critical Transportation Choices, serving both as chief counsel from 1983. During his service to the Senate, he played a key role in drafting such important transportation legislation, such as the nation's first seat-belt law, a child restraint law, a reserved parking space for drivers with disabilities law, and the Transportation Bond Issues of 1983 and 1979, reserved parking spaces for drivers with disabilities, and others.



**MODERATOR**

#### **Mark Fasciano, Ph.D, Managing Director, Canrock Ventures**

Mark Fasciano is a Managing Director in Canrock Ventures, an early-stage technology venture fund. Mark is also the Chairman and co-founder of General Sentiment founded in 2009, a social media measurement that determines the public sentiment of every topic mentioned anywhere on the public Internet. In 2008, Mark led the startup Karma411, an online resource for raising funds and awareness for causes, including nonprofits, political campaigns, and social events. In addition Mark sits on the boards of startups Thrive Metrics, CooCoo, and Sentiment Alpha. Mark launched FatWire Software in 1996. For over a decade as CEO he helped the company become a leading global Web Content & Experience Management software provider with over 400 customers in nine countries around the world including GM, Ford, Channel, JPMorgan Chase, Best Buy, Banco Santander, Allied Irish Bank, and Walmart, before the company was bought by Oracle for \$163M. In 2000, he was a winner of Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year award. Mark is on the board of Overseas Military Sales Corporation in Woodbury, NY, CooCoo based in Huntington, NY and on the board of nonprofits United Way of Long Island, and the North Shore Land Alliance.



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### Mark Lesko, Supervisor, Town of Brookhaven



Mark Lesko, reform-minded Brookhaven Town Supervisor, was elected to office in March 2009, November 2009, and November 2011. Before he served as Supervisor, Lesko was a federal prosecutor for the U.S. Department of Justice for ten years, leading all federal investigations and prosecutions on Long Island. Supervisor Lesko brought his prosecutorial experience and no-nonsense approach to the Town of Brookhaven, where he has made it a priority to strengthen government operations through new policies and reforms and run government more like a business. As Brookhaven Town Supervisor, Lesko has frozen taxes for three straight years and cut spending by over 26%. Independent bond rating agencies have affirmed the Town's credit rating eight times since 2009. Supervisor Lesko has also developed several forward-thinking programs to stimulate economic development and create jobs, including the Blight to Light program, which provides incentives for the redevelopment of eyesore properties.

### Vanessa Pugh, Deputy Commissioner, Economic Development and Planning, Suffolk County



Ms. Pugh is the Deputy Commissioner for the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, where she assists and promotes the development, growth and retention of a broad mix of industry clusters that facilitate job opportunities and private capital investment. Prior to working for Suffolk County, Ms. Pugh was the Director of the Town of Babylon's combined offices of Community Development and Downtown Revitalization, where she oversaw downtown revitalization and planning efforts for the Town's hamlets. The Office of Downtown Revitalization was created to foster downtown revitalization on a broad basis by creating plans for focused, centralized growth in downtowns, including Wyandanch Rising, North Amityville, and Copiague. Combining Downtown Revitalization and Community Development allowed the Town to seamlessly pursue programs, funding and activities to improve community facilities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. Previously, she served in the Nassau County Office of Economic Development and as Program Director at Sustainable Long Island.

### Robert Stricoff, Chief Executive Officer, Town of Babylon IDA



Since Bob was appointed as CEO at the Babylon IDA, there has been nearly 250 million dollars invested in new businesses and over 3000 jobs saved and created in the Town of Babylon. Among the highlights of Bob's tenure as IDA Director are, EDO Corporation relocating two new manufacturing facilities saving nearly 500 jobs here in the town of Babylon. The development of two world class Marriott hotels, the first of their kind, in the town of Babylon along Babylon's Route 110 Corridor. Since 2003, the Babylon IDA has been successful with the attraction and retention of national and international companies to Babylon, EDO Corporation, Telephonics, Tanger at the Arches, Airport Marriott at Republic, Orlandi, Precipart, Bellco, MC Packaging bringing some 10,000 jobs to Babylon over a nine year period. In 2011 alone, 10 deals with 800 jobs have been retained or created and nearly 50 million dollars has been invested in the town.

