

## **ENVIRONMENTALISTS CALL FOR GRECCO'S REMOVAL**

### **Seek Resignation or Ouster of Suffolk Real Estate Director**

#### **For Immediate Release:**

The Long Island Pine Barrens Society has called for the resignation or removal of Suffolk County Real Estate Director Allan Grecco. The request comes in the wake of a Newsday investigation revealing that Grecco rejected five appraisals for County purchase of the Chandler Estate in Mount Sinai and sought yet another appraisal that nearly doubled the amount paid to a personal business associate of Grecco's, Robert Toussie.

In a statement sent this afternoon to County Executive Robert Gaffney, the Board of Directors of the non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization that has championed open space preservation said:

"The Pine Barrens Society hereby requests that you ask for the resignation of Allan Grecco as Suffolk County Real Estate Director or remove him from his position, yourself.

It is clear from Newsday's investigation that Mr. Grecco has abused his office to the detriment of Suffolk residents and taxpayers by jeopardizing the County's laudable program to protect drinking water and preserve open space.

In advancing this request, the Society is making no charge of criminality in this matter. That is for others to judge. Instead, our organization has concluded that the appearance of impropriety or a conflict of interest has the potential to undermine a program essential to the environmental and economic health of Long Island. As you well know, Suffolk voters have committed more money than 45 of 50 states because of the importance of drinking water protection and open space preservation. They are entitled to remain confident that their tax dollars are being wisely and properly spent to advance these high objectives.

Our Executive Director, Richard Amper would like to meet with you immediately to offer his assistance in obtaining a suitable replacement, so that Suffolk County's land preservation programs will not be further compromised."

The Society commended Suffolk County's long-term record of land purchases. Executive Director, Richard Amper said, "For more than 20 years, Suffolk has run a responsible land preservation program, virtually untainted by questionable conduct. With Long Island's last open space diminishing at an enormous pace, we can ill afford anything that could jeopardize the completion of this historic preservation program."