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KAPLOWITZ TO HEAD COUNTY BOARD'S INVESTIGATION INTO POTENTIAL HARMFUL EFFECTS OF PCBs IN CAULKING & OTHER MATERIALS

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH EPA, SCHOOL OFFICIALS MONDAY

County Legislator Michael B. Kaplowitz (D-I-WF, Somers), the immediate past chair of the Legislature's Committee on the Environment, will be leading Monday's meeting addressing concerns about the potentially harmful effects of PCB-laden caulk and other industrial materials. Legislator Thomas J. Abinanti (D-I-WF, Greenburgh), the current chair of the committee, noted that he agreed with Kaplowitz on the importance of holding such a meeting.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) have been demonstrated to cause a variety of adverse health effects. They were used in the manufacturing of electrical transformers, hydraulic equipment, caulk and other industrial sealants due to their non-flammability, chemical stability, high boiling point and electrical insulating properties, until 1976 when Congress enacted the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) that prohibited the manufacturing, processing, and distribution in commerce of PCBs.

According to Kaplowitz, who chairs the County Board's Budget & Appropriations Committee, the investigation comes on the heels of the discovery of PCBs in window caulking at the French Hill Elementary School in Yorktown. Dr. Daniel Lefkowitz, whose son attends the school, made the initial discovery. He will attend Monday's 3pm Environment Committee meeting, along with Mr. Thomas Cole, the Yorktown School District's Assistant Superintendent.

"We need to take a collective, in-depth look into the science and existing regulations in order to identify possible changes that could remediate any potential negative health effects from PCBs in our schools and/or other buildings," said Kaplowitz.

Also scheduled to attend Monday's meeting are Dr. Daniel Katz and Berry Schorr of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Dr. Robert Herrick of Harvard University, and Dr. Joshua Lipsman, the County's Health Commissioner. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has also been invited.

The Environment Committee meeting will take place this Monday, August 8th at 3pm in the Board's Offices located on the 8th floor of the Michaelian Office Building, at 148 Martine Avenue in White Plains.

The press and the public are encouraged to attend.

EXCELLENT VIDEO & PHOTO OPP!!

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