Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Statement from Legislator Edwin Day Concerning Impound of Unlicensed Home Improvement Contractor's Equipment

New City, NY (May 19, 2010) – Rockland County Legislator Ed Day made the following statement concerning the seizure on Tuesday by the Rockland County Sheriff's Department of equipment and vehicles owned by Chestnut Ridge-based All Green Landscaping, a landscaping contractor owned by Mr. Larry Katz, found operating without a home improvement license as required by County law. "The Rockland County Consumer Home Improvement Protection Act of 2009" was introduced by Legislator Day to permit authorities to impound equipment and vehicles of unlicensed contractors, to create the incentive for contractors to apply for a proper license.

"This is a prime example of the importance of having this specific "tool in our toolbox," said Day, "this seizure, the first in Rockland, should serve as example for contractors that are required by County law to be licensed, but continue to operate without a valid license. Your compliance or your equipment – it's as simple as that."

Legislator Day also acknowledged the Director of Rockland County Office of Consumer Protection Terry Grosselfinger for his utilizing this law within the spirit and intent in which it was crafted. "Both Terry and I agreed that government should not be about the unbridled seizure of property, but rather focusing on the most egregious law breakers out there. Given that Mr. Katz has been previously prosecuted on several occasions since 2008, and has continued to flagrantly operate illegally, clearly made him an appropriate selection for this enforcement action," said Legislator Day.

The updated law covers about 80,000 homes and 2,000 licensed home improvement contractors in Rockland County. Such contractors include landscapers, carpenters, roofers, painters, floor and swimming-pool installers. Legislator Day is presently working with the Office of Consumer Protection, legal counsel and oversight Boards to extend the enforcement strategy to electricians and plumbers.

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