

IN BRIEF:

Huntington Designates Spot for Day Workers

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Body

Days after the Town of Brookhaven passed a law restricting housing opportunities for low-income residents, the Town of Huntington has designated a site for day workers looking for employment. Despite the fact that many of the workers are illegal immigrants from Central America, the town board voted 4 to 1 this month in favor of allocating the first month's rent of \$1,300 for a 1 1/2-acre plot on Depot Road and Third Street to the Huntington Station Enrichment Center.

Delores Thompson, president and chief executive of the Enrichment Center, a job-placement training center, said that hundreds of men were showing up every morning on one street corner looking for landscaping or construction work. The crowd was causing traffic problems and endangering pedestrians, she said.

"What are we supposed to do with the workers?" said Ms. Thompson. "We can't send them back to their country, and they do have rights once they come here."

Not everyone agreed. "When you want the drug dealers off the street, do you then set them up in a crack house? No, because it's illegal," said John Marcinka of Huntington Station. "Now, because of the federal government's inaction, the local government is breaking the law."

Similar controversy in Brookhaven Town involved criticism from community groups and residents who say a designated shape-up site is aiding and abetting illegal activity.

Patricia Reiss, a spokeswoman for the Town of Huntington, said they had to be realistic about the situation. "There's a safety problem in the area, and some of these workers need help," said Ms. Reiss. "The town supports the Enrichment Center."

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