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Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno Visits On the Deck Restaurant and Harbor View Bar to See New Jersey's "Open for Business" Attitude in Action

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Closed for Three Months, Atlantic Highlands Restaurant's Resilience is Testament to Shore's Comeback Spirit

Trenton, NJ – Encouraging New Jerseyans to continue their support for storm impacted businesses and towns, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno today celebrated with employees and patrons the resilience and spirit of Atlantic Highlands' On the Deck Restaurant and Harbor View Bar to repair and reopen after suffering damage during Superstorm Sandy.

"Businesses like On the Deck and its owners are why the Jersey Shore is poised to come back better than ever after Superstorm Sandy," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "Despite suffering enough damage to keep the restaurant closed for three months, co-owners Henry Moyer and Nick DiBari were committed to repairing and rebuilding and have now resumed service for their employees and patrons. I've seen this unique combination of grit, hard work and compassion while visiting these types of resilient businesses throughout New Jersey. It's why I'm more optimistic than ever about the future of New Jersey's shore."

On the Deck Restaurant and Harbor View Bar, which opened about 5 years ago, employs about 90 people during the summer and up to 30 during the off season. Located at the Atlantic Highlands Marina, On the Deck was forced to remain closed for three months due to damage to both the restaurant and the marina.

"Our employees, especially those who are with us year round, they're like our family," said DiBari. "Many of them have been with us since we opened. Well, they were out of work for quite some time while we were closed, and that hurts. They were hurt by the storm in so many ways that we felt we needed to get open as soon as possible. We got them back to work, but it just took longer than we wanted it to take."

Now that the restaurant and other Atlantic Highlands businesses have reopened, DiBari stressed it is important for people to visit and support local businesses.

"We are open, that's first and foremost, and we'll be ready for the upcoming season," continued DiBari. "Businesses and residents in town are continuing to deal with the storm's impact, but we're open and we're here. Local business is a big part of how most of the shore communities have survived and thrived over the years, and supporting us now will help the shore come back quicker and better than ever."

In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, Governor Christie has made assisting affected New Jersey small businesses a priority. In addition to initiating a statewide business impact assessment in collaboration with the state's leading business groups, the Christie Administration worked with the Small Business Administration to secure nearly \$189 million in loans for thousands of homes and small businesses, and provided lines of credit through the state's Economic Development Authority for businesses awaiting insurance reimbursement, grants for job training, and benefits for displaced workers. New Jersey was also the recipient of a \$15.6 million National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to hire unemployed state residents to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts.

Businesses are encouraged to call the state's Business Action Center at 1-866-534-7789 for assistance and information on the many business advocacy services available through the state. Information is also available by visiting the state's business portal at www.newjerseybusiness.gov.

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