



Shapiro & Associates engineering firm to stay in Lynbrook

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An engineering company that works on some of the world's largest construction projects has decided to stay in Lynbrook, instead of moving to New York City where many of its projects are. New York's rising skyline is pictured. Photo Credit: AP

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Howard I. Shapiro & Associates will renovate 266 Merrick Rd., which it shares with other companies. Shapiro & Associates purchased the 36,000-square-foot building in 2013 for \$2 million and now plans to spend \$1.2 million on improvements.

The company advises builders on demolition and construction activities including the installation of giant cranes and derrick equipment. Its projects include new office buildings in Manhattan and elsewhere and the renovation of bronze doors at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The company has 47 employees and records show they earn, on average, \$136,000 per year, excluding benefits.

"We mainly work in New York City . . . My grandfather started the business in 1946 in Brooklyn and we eventually moved to Nassau County, first to Valley Stream and then Lynbrook," company president and co-owner Jay P. Shapiro said recently.

"Lynbrook is a great town, and we'd like to stay there but we need the county's help," he said.

Lawrence K. Shapiro is the other co-owner and serves as vice president.

Last month, the county's Industrial Development Agency gave the engineering firm a sales-tax exemption of up to \$35,000 for the purchase of construction supplies and equipment. It also received a property tax break that freezes the

rate for five years followed by increases of 1.66 percent in each of the next 10 years.

In return for the tax incentives, Shapiro & Associates has pledged to maintain its work force and add at least five employees within three years.

IDA chairman Timothy Williams said it was important to keep the company in Nassau because of its reputation in the construction industry and the high employee salaries.

Joseph J. Kearney, IDA executive director, said, "There are few firms in the world that do this kind of work . . . this really is an international company."

In its aid application, Shapiro & Associates said it has done work in Brazil, Mexico and India, as well as in California, Illinois, New Jersey and Florida.