

## Suffolk lawmakers raise a racquet at SCCC announcement

3:34 PM By Rick Brand

Freshman Democratic Legis. Monica Martinez outplayed Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory (D-Amityville) with a forceful overhead serve as officials showed their stuff Monday as Suffolk County Community College formally announced the Brentwood campus as the site for the \$120,000 U.S. Open Badminton Championship.

The Brentwood lawmaker, in whose district the event will be held July 8-13, not only whacked the shuttlecock but played in spike heels. Lawmakers and college president Shaun McKay tried their hand before professionals put on a more intense exhibition in singles and doubles.

Local officials welcomed executives of the Open's tournament committee with hopes of generating \$400,000 in revenue and a long-term relationship with the event which for the last 18 years has been held in California.

Although the event was bipartisan, new GOP freshman lawmakers Kevin McCaffrey and Rob Trotta suggested a Republican v. Democratic match as a warmup for the championship, an idea tourney officials embraced.

Gregory acknowledged, "Badminton is not my forte," but added, when the event begins, "I'll be out there cheering."

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