Task force to tackle storm recovery

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Top executives of local companies, universities and hospitals will advise Nassau County on boosting the economy after superstorm Sandy.

County Executive Edward Mangano announced yesterday the formation of an "economic recovery task force" to create "a strategy that helps our business community recover."

The 12-member group will be led by Richard J. Daly, CEO of Broadridge Financial Solutions Inc., a provider of investor information based in Lake Success.

Daly said the task force would "provide elected officials with the information they need to construct and implement executive orders that protect the businessman and woman struggling to open their store, the entrepreneur who just lost his startup company . . . From our perspective, the real crisis has just begun."

The other task force members are: Linda Armyn, corporate development vice president at Bethpage Federal Credit Union; Stanley M. Bergman, CEO of medical products supplier Henry Schein Inc., the area's largest public company by sales; Jan Burman, a developer and head of the Association for a Better Long Island; Michael Dowling, CEO of the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health system, the region's largest private-sector employer; Bob Gleason, regional vice president at Stop & Shop supermarkets; Marc Herbst, a former state assemblyman and executive director of the Long Island Contractors' Association; John Kominicki, publisher of the weekly Long Business Business News; Jerry Kremer, a consultant and former state assemblyman; Jennifer Rimmer, a former top official at New York State's Empire State Development Corp.; Kevin Law, president of the Long Island Association business group; and Stuart Rabinowitz, president of Hofstra University.

Law and Rabinowitz are vice chairmen of the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council appointed last year by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo.

Several task force members said the region's confidence had been shaken by Sandy, making it imperative for commercial activity to resume.

"Either [Long Island] rebuilds its economy, restoring confidence in its future," Burman said, "or it begins to slowly hemorrhage in a most insidious way that ultimately destroys its place within the economic fabric of the nation."