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Cancer research on Lazio's priority list

Former Republican Rep. Rick Lazio yesterday said he will make early detection of breast cancer a "top priority" if he is elected governor.

"It's a huge issue that has affected our community and my family," Lazio said.

Lazio made the statement during a ceremony celebrat-

ing the 30th anniversary of Women's History Month and the work of Breast Cancer Help Inc., outside the group's headquarters in Bay Shore.

Lazio appeared with Lorraine Pace, the group's co-president, who spearheaded the breast cancer mapping project in the 1990s and

whose group has raised about \$1 million to provide services and donate equipment to combat the disease.

"Rick has been with us since the very beginning," Pace said. "I hope you become the candidate and do get elected because I know you will be there."

Lazio, who is facing a possible gubernatorial challenge from former county legislative colleague, Democratic County Executive Steve Levy, also reiterated he expects to win both the Republican and Conservative party nominations for governor.

— RICK BRAND

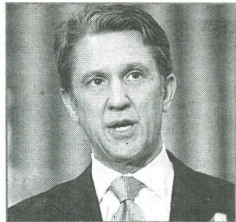


PHOTO BY DAVE SANDERS

Rick Lazio, GOP candidate for governor, says early breast cancer detection a top priority.