

December 21, 2012

The following comments were prepared for the Moreland Commission. I attended the public hearing on December 20 at Touro Law School and, while there was no public comment, submitted the following statement along with our Mayor's Messages of July 30, August 13 and September 10 to the Commission for consideration in its report. Assessing the impacts of Superstorm Sandy to our immediate region, the creation of a clean energy co-generation microgrid and facility at Belmont Park seems to be a reasonable consideration.

December 20, 2012

To Moreland Commissioners:

Co-Chair Robert Abrams, former Attorney General of New York State
Co-Chair Benjamin Lawsky, Superintendent of the Department of Financial Services
Peter Bradford, former Chair of the Public Service Commission
Tony Collins, President of Clarkson University
John Dyson, former Chairman of the New York Power Authority
Rev. Floyd Flake, Senior Pastor of Greater Allen African Methodist Episcopal Cathedral
Mark Green, former New York City Public Advocate
Joanie Mahoney, Onondaga County Executive
Kathleen Rice, Nassau County District Attorney
Dan Tishman, Vice Chairman at AECOM Technology Corporation, and Chairman and CEO of
Tishman Construction Corporation

Dear Commissioner:

The Incorporated Village of Floral Park requests that you include the creation of a new clean energy co-generation facility at Belmont Park to be among your recommendations to improve emergency preparedness in Nassau County and as part of restructuring of energy utilities to improve the reliability and affordability of power on Long Island.

By way of background, Floral Park is a community of about 16,000 residents located in western Nassau County, which neighbors Belmont Park. Belmont Park, which has been the home of major thoroughbred racing for over a century, is an over 435 acre property owned by the State of New York. Floral Park, which along with several other contiguous incorporated villages neighboring Belmont Park, have already proposed the creation of a clean energy microgrid utility located at Belmont Park which would provide utility services to both Belmont Park and the local participating communities. This clean energy facility, which will be modeled after an award winning natural gas cogeneration facility already in operation on the college campus of the University of California at San Diego, would enable this state owned property to become self-sufficient and vastly improve emergency preparedness in a significant location on Long Island.

The Commission should be aware that this is not some Monday quarterbacking or a knee jerk reaction to Superstorm Sandy, but in fact is rather a proposal that was already presented to the Governor of New York and our elected representatives well before Hurricane Sandy literally appeared on the radar screen. Our communities, which are in the middle of Long Island are almost equidistant from the Atlantic Ocean to our south and the Long Island Sound to our north. So the storm surges which are so devastating to the communities on our coastlines typically leave our areas relatively unscathed by such water damage.

Yet, after Superstorm Sandy, some villages to our south, which suffered direct hits by such storm surges, nevertheless had their utilities restored to the majority of their residents well before the village residents in Floral Park, Bellerose, South Floral Park, Stewart Manor or Garden City. In particular, according to *Newsday* on Monday November 5th, the Village of Freeport was in shambles south of Sunrise Highway, with its beloved Nautical Mile row of restaurants and stores shuttered, burned or collapsed and boats blocking some of its streets. Yet, the Village of Freeport, a devastated community in which 43,000 residents initially lost power, only had 4,100 left without power on Monday November 5th. By Saturday November 3rd, 95 percent of Freeport residents north of Atlantic Avenue had power restored and even 23 of the homes south of Atlantic had power.

Floral Park, on the other hand, miles from the Atlantic's devastating storm surge which swamped Freeport, on that same Monday November 5th was identified as one of the worst and hardest hit communities without power on Long Island. How was it that the Village of Freeport bordering the Atlantic Ocean had a much greater percentage of its residents with power rather than the relatively high and dry community of Floral Park? The answer is that the Village of Freeport has its own municipal electric service while the Village of Floral Park, bordering New York City, is literally at the end of LIPA's lines.

LIPA's fragile grid has failed the residents of western Nassau County miserably for years and Superstorm Sandy made that fact perfectly clear. To add insult to injury, residents in Long Island communities, such as Freeport, Rockville Centre and Greenport, which are free from LIPA's death grip because they operate their own municipal utilities, also save a significant amount of money every month on their utility bills. More dependable service at a lower price is something every resident of Long Island deserves and needs.

The State of New York, which owns Belmont Park, needs to update its desperately outdated infrastructure to transform the mecca of our state's thoroughbred horse industry into a state of the art facility. Belmont Park is designated as an emergency evacuation center, yet after Superstorm Sandy, evacuees were unable to stay there because, like its neighboring villages, Belmont Park did not have electricity, heat or utilities either! Many of the evacuees and first responders ended up locating to the facilities within the Nassau County Hub because it has the ability of operating under its own power. Belmont Park must become a true emergency center rather than just one on paper.

Floral Park and our neighboring villages have already demonstrated their ability to work together as evidenced by our highly successful Four Village Studio municipal utility cable

service. Creating a clean energy co-generation microgrid at Belmont Park is a win-win situation for everyone.

Given the tight time constraints, included with these remarks are our previous public statements relating to our proposed Belmont Park clean energy facility. Please add this to the list of recommendations to the Governor and our state and federal inclusion within your to do priority list.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Tweedy
Mayor