

Belmont Park Development Scoping Hearing : March 22, 2018  
Statement by Thomas J. Tweedy

Good Afternoon. It has been the belief of many that the development of Belmont Park must be based upon infrastructure. The new Belmont Park was opened in 1968. That makes Belmont Park the oldest unrenovated major sports facility in the Tri-State region. While some may say addressing these issues now is akin to shutting the gate after the horse has left the barn but ...we still have a chance to address these basic needs of infrastructure which today limit any development at Belmont Park.. It is vitally important that these infrastructure needs of power, sewerage, drainage and water not impact existing public works needs of present residential and business customers surrounding Belmont Park.

But we again see the cart leading horse. After these many years, we again witness the lack of preparation by the Landlord, the State of NY, to these base development issues: Electric Power; Sewerage capacity and treatment, sanitation issues, drainage and water irresponsibly unaddressed and floundering. These items are the responsibility of the Landlord and it is she, in this case the State of NY, who should be looking out for her constituents first and not the simply the promised dollars of the special interest groups.

Clean water and hydronic issues are serious matters, presently the subject of news reports, lawsuits, injunctions with studies being conducted now by the Western Nassau Water Authority for its existing customers.

What will happen when upwards of 40,000 use the park daily and the additional surge of 18000 Islander fans or concert goers responding to Nature's call all at the same time..this surge capacity of water and sewerage are just one of the issues needing full airing and examination.. These impacts must be addressed and disclosed **before** a shovel hits the ground; the State of NY must hold the reins on the special interest groups and high paid lobbyists until these matters are answered.

And finally, what are these infrastructure needs of NYRA and their future plans for power, light, water, drainage, etc. The segmentation of development at Belmont Park is by design and is disingenuous and disrespectful to the most vulnerable and impacted communities by this development – the communities of Floral Park & Elmont who have hosted Belmont Park for over 110 years.