

December 22, 2015

On December 21st, Trustee Fitzgerald & myself attended the Wednesday Mothers Club Rally at the Nassau County Legislative Meeting in opposition to the placement of VLTs at Belmont Park by Nassau OTB. Below are the statements read by myself & Trustee Fitzgerald.

**STATEMENT BY MAYOR THOMAS J. TWEEDY BEFORE NASSAU COUNTY
LEGISLATURE REGARDING PLACEMENT OF VLT CASINO AT BELMONT PARK
BY NASSAU OTB
DECEMBER 21, 2015**

I am here today to address all of the Legislators in general, but I address Legislators Nicoletto and Muscarella specifically.

For twenty years you have received the support of Floral Park. In my opinion, you have deserved that support because you have represented Floral Park well and you have dealt with Floral Park honestly.

In the weeks before this past election, each of you appeared before Civic Association meetings in Floral Park and informed our residents that you did not know where OTB planned to place its Casino. Given our twenty year history, I do not believe for one moment that either one of you deliberately misinformed the residents of Floral Park.

The only other possible reason, then, is that in the nine months after OTB was driven out of Westbury and Carle Place and after OTB publically promised to seek community support for wherever their next proposed site would be, OTB failed to make you part of their decision-making process or even keep you informed, despite the fact that they planned to place this highly controversial facility in a location that will negatively impact your constituents.

If that is true, then I would imagine that the two of you should be as angry as, I can assure you, the residents of Floral Park are.

And you should be as angry as your constituents are. OTB has once again conducted its site selection process in complete secrecy. After the disaster of the secretive site selection process that OTB conducted last year that resulted in the revolt in Westbury, any reasonable management group running OTB or any other public benefit corporation would have changed the way it conducted the process. Indeed, just after the Fortunoff debacle of last year, OTB publicly stated they would seek community support before citing the casino.

However, the selection process employed by OTB, once again, has been completely shrouded in secrecy and conducted behind closed doors, not even including you two in their secret process.

This Legislature has the statutory authority and indeed the responsibility of oversight over OTB. You also have the direct power to correct this and stop this. As I am sure you are all aware, pursuant to the Racing and Wagering Law, the Nassau County Legislature has the power and ability to replace the OTB Board of Directors at will. As County Comptroller George Maragos

correctly pointed out, “The County has the ability to remove the appointed members of the [OTB] Governing Board at will and, as such, has the ability to impose its own will on [OTB].” [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the Comptroller for Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2013 at page 39].

To the extent you are of the mistaken belief that this casino “must go somewhere”, then, at a bare minimum, the placement should be the result of an open and transparent process that involves community involvement from the outset.

However, OTB has gotten this wrong again and again. It is past the time to replace the OTB Directors with Directors who will stop this and protect our communities.

To the other legislators - - Floral Park is not saying put this terrible idea in your community. By now, it should be apparent to everyone that this casino cannot fit beneficially in any community. And I will submit that all the communities of Nassau are tired of playing Russian Roulette with a gun held by OTB - hoping OTB’s gun goes off in some other community’s head and ruins their neighborhood instead of our own.

Plainview and Bethpage rejected it at the Race Palace
Carle Place and Westbury rejected it at Fortunoffs
Uniondale, Hempstead and Hofstra University rejected it at the HUB

The Villages of Floral Park, Bellerose, South Floral Park and Stewart Manor, together with the Floral Park-Bellerose Board of Education and the hamlet of Elmont are telling you that this is not right in our communities either.

**STATEMENT BY TRUSTEE KEVIN FITZGERALD BEFORE NASSAU COUNTY
LEGISLATURE REGARDING PLACEMENT OF VLT CASINO AT BELMONT PARK
BY NASSAU OTB
DECEMBER 21, 2015**

As an elected representative of the Village of Floral Park I come before you today to ask you, our Legislators, to work with the Village and its extremely concerned residents to halt all aspects of a potential VLT parlor or casino from being sited at Belmont Park. Due to its proximity to our homes, schools, ball fields and playgrounds we must vehemently object to this location. A casino at this location will forever change the quality of life, which most of you are keenly aware of, that our residents have come to enjoy. In 2013, Floral Park was the only community on Long Island to use the power of their vote and reject by a 2 to 1 margin the NY State constitutional amendment referendum on allowing casinos. We, therefore, have to ask if it was not acceptable in Westbury, Nassau Coliseum or Inwood, why is acceptable to be placed adjacent to the one community who voted against this form of gambling.

Over the past few weeks, The Floral Park Village Board and the Floral Park-Bellerose Board of Education each unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to a proposed casino at Belmont Park. In addition, I have had many conversations with my fellow residents, from parents with young children to our senior citizens, who stand steadfast in objection to a casino at Belmont Park and are ready to voice their objections very loudly when, and hopefully it won’t come to

pass, an official announcement is made. In addition, I would request that the Legislature find a different means of filling a budget gap than banking on the misfortunes of its residents by having casino gaming while also providing no additional economic stimulus from which our residents can be proud of.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you on this potential transformative development in my community.

(Go to [the Floral Park Facebook page](https://m.facebook.com/fpvillage) at <https://m.facebook.com/fpvillage> and click on 'Open this content in a new window' to read the statements read by WMC's board members)