

Kevin M Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor
Inc Village of Floral Park

Good morning, I am Kevin Fitzgerald Deputy Mayor of the Inc Village of Floral Park. Thank you for allowing me and our residents to comment on this potentially significant intrusion in our daily lives. Approximately a decade ago the same project was presented to us and, as is style of the people of Floral Park, all documents were reviewed to weigh the impacts and benefits. Throughout the scoping process our residents along with our business community has voiced and written their opposition to the project. The opposition has been one that has been vocal for the past decade. As there will be many comments from our residents on various impacts I would like to focus this evening/morning on the Socioeconomic impacts this project may have on the Village of Floral Park:

Back in the 1960's when the trains were elevated in Floral Park a number of businesses closed and property was taken. That loss of property still has an effect on the residents today as there are now fewer properties to that pay taxes. If this project goes forward, I would expect that residential properties that are adjacent to the tracks and those directly impacted by the construction will and should grieve their taxes thereby increasing the tax burden of those not surrounding the construction zone. Additionally should businesses in the commercial district fail our commercial property owners would also grieve their taxes. This would in effect be a tax increase to certain residents in Floral Park and other surrounding communities. This tax increase along with the increase in taxes/fares to foot the \$2billion project cost will leave less money in the pockets of our local residents to support our local businesses, charitable organizations and reduce discretionary spending all while the residents deriving no benefit of an additional track.

In addition, I would add that our Recreation Center and Pool is not only a place where physical activity occurs but also a great place for the community to enjoy each other's company. If the Rec Center is closed for any period of time or if a sporting season is cancelled, I am gravely concerned that our Little League Baseball, Roller Hockey, Football, Soccer organizations along with our evening

recreational programs for adults can continue or at least will struggle. If those organizations fail and large piece of what keeps Floral Park the vibrant community it is may cease to exist.

Finally, I fear that due to the closures of South Tyson Ave and Plainfield Ave for extended periods of time will physically divide our community. As folks that live on the north side of the tracks will be reluctant, due to the inconvenience of travelling, to visit businesses and friends on the south side (and vice versa). Over time fewer friendships within the Village will form and as an 18 year resident, I can confidently state that the social fabric woven by these friendships is what makes Floral Park a special place.

The DEIS addresses the positive impacts of the project to Nassau County, Suffolk County and NY State but none for Floral Park and the immediate surrounding communities,

Finally I look forward to submitting additional written comments before the deadline that will be put forth once our outside counsel and engineering firm have studied the DEIS along with providing written comments on behalf of my family