

Statement of West End Civic Association

Floral Park, New York

Perry Criscitelli, President

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Floral Park, New York 11001

My name is Perry Criscitelli, and I am the President of the West End Civic Association in the village of Floral Park. I appear here on behalf of its members, as well as the residents of Floral Park, and in solidarity with many other civic associations that are impacted by the potential of the Long Island Railroad Expansion project.

To appreciate our concerns, you must be cognizant of the fact that the northern boarder of the West End Civic Association abuts and runs parallel with the Long Island Railroad main line and Hempstead branch. Although the expansion is set to begin slightly east of the confines of the West End Civic Association, the disruptive nature and the increase in rail traffic will directly impact the village of Floral Park, and potentially paralyze access in and out of the West End of Floral Park. It will adversely affect emergency services and transportation for our students at our grammar school and high school.

Over the years, the Long Island Railroad has not been a "good" neighbor. For instance, several years ago, the Long Island Railroad defoliated the areas buffering the roadways and rail tracks not only providing no advance notice, but left it disheveled, creating an eyesore along the entire length of Atlantic Avenue. Representatives of the railroad were invited to address the matter with the West End Civic Associate, and this resulted in no solution or improvement.

Another example is the deteriorating condition of the Bellerose train station that services the West End of Floral Park. Notwithstanding the stench of urine in the passage ways and stairways, but the station is not even handicap accessible and the ticket machine does not even offer round trip metro cards.

Despite the neglect and poor performance of the Long Island Railroad as it impacts the west end portion of Floral Park, the Long Island Railroad wants to add a third rail slightly east of the west end of Floral Park. There is no discussion of any modifications or sound walls for the track run between Floral Park station and the Nassau-Queens border, yet the railroad acknowledges increased rail activity, and with that, increased noise. Needless to say, this is once again an ill-conceived plan with little, if no regard, to the residents in its path of destruction.

Therefore, before the Long Island Railroad and the MTA begin to expand, they need to concentrate on the existing infrastructure, upgrading its existing stations, and improve existing conditions that are aligned with the year 2016. Once the infrastructure is remedied, then resources can be diverted to meaningful expansion with a sound basis and reason. This third rail expansion has no sound basis or reason at this point, and the Long Island Railroad and MTA have not proffered any sound reason or plan.

Accordingly, on behalf of the West End Civic Association, we strongly oppose the Third Rail Expansion project!

I thank you for this opportunity to permit me to express the collective voice and sentiments of the residents in the West End of Floral Park!

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray J".