

Good evening I am Kevin Fitzgerald Deputy Mayor of the Inc Village of Floral Park. Thank you for having this event to gather input from the residents and communities that surround, as it has been affectionately known for decades, “Beautiful” Belmont Park. Over the past decade or so, there has been many fits and starts to potential development ideas at Belmont our neighbor for over 108 years. At the beginning of these various ideas being floated, the Village of Floral Park put forth its Statement of Principles for the Preservation and Improvement of “Beautiful” Belmont Park. Most of these still hold true today and as we embark on a new and exciting chapter, I would like to take a few moments to point out a few certainly remain relevant:

I COMMUNITIES THAT PROVIDE SO MUCH DESERVE MUCH IN RETURN. The neighboring communities that shoulder the greatest burdens must be guaranteed to receive the greatest benefits.

II PRESERVE AND PROTECT RACING AND OUR COMMUNITIES ALIKE The neighboring communities support the preservation and fostering of the continued world class premier thoroughbred racing facilities within their neighborhood that have existed at Belmont Park for over one hundred years

III PLAN AND PROVIDE NEW STATE OF THE ART INFRASTRUCTURE In order to achieve that goal, there must be a strategic plan in place for a state of the art infrastructure and facilities worthy of being called the nation's premier venues for thoroughbred racing and a source of community pride. At this juncture it would seem appropriate for a master plan of all changes to be developed to ensure that all changes work in harmony with each other and the surrounding communities

IV SAFETY AND SECURITY IS A NECESSITY NOT A LUXURY The safety and security for the facilities and their neighboring communities must be maintained and increased

V BE AN ECONOMIC ENGINE FOR YOUR COMMUNITIES The facilities must continue to be an economic engine generating jobs and business for the communities in which each is located

VI TRANSPARENT RESPONSIVE OVERSIGHT CREATES COMMUNITY TRUST. The neighboring communities must be involved and considered in any significant change of operations or activities at the facilities including new developments on the land.

One means in order to ensure the above requests are met is to establish a Belmont Park Community Advisory Board similar in nature to the Saratoga Community Advisory Board

And In closing, I would leave you with a quote from noted horse racing columnist Ray Kerrison who when asked about Belmont Park once said *“No longer a mere horse park, it is a landmark on New York’s horizon, an institution that has survived a century, a civic prize of great charm and grandeur.”*

Thank you once again for having this session and I look forward to working with you and our surrounding communities on improving “Beautiful” Belmont Park