

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to thank the hundreds of Floral Park residents who showed up at the Belmont arena hearings this week to fight for our town. Below are my comments from last night's session...

Hello. I've sat here the last 3 nights and feel the need to sum up the messages of the vast majority of speakers & applauding spectators...

First, no one believes your Environmental Impact Study was done honestly and accurately – many subject matter experts refuted several sections of the study - namely safety, traffic/transportation, community character, infrastructure, water & noise.

You have obviously not familiarized yourself with our communities and the area. How many people have to tell you that a hockey arena parking lot neighboring an elementary school is not the best idea? It is a beer bottle's throw away. And how many need to say traffic is ALREADY atrocious & that people are DYING?

Elmont needs development but not all this – start by giving them a fully functioning LIRR station at Belmont. That will grow their neighborhood and attract local business people to the area. Not just more fast food chains as last night's speaker mentioned...

We are not against the Islanders or the Arena necessarily but Belmont Park must stay park-like, not become just a parking lot – we don't need hotel space, retail space, conference space and office space. Who here will benefit from that? We want green space, community space and OPEN SPACE.

FORGET THE LUXURY MALL. Not one person has come out in support of it – NOT A ONE

PUT ALL arena parking on the South lot where it belongs and stay away from our schools & homes.

And finally, I think it is safe to say you clearly do NOT have the community's support. In today's Newsday article your spokesman is quoted as saying "ESD is committed to a robust community engagement process. Our goal is to ensure local residents' voices are heard." I am up here to tell you we do not feel heard!

Thank you,

Jessica Alfonsi