

Belmont Development Testimony
January 9, 2019

Statement from the Floral Park-Bellerose School Board

Good evening. My name is Doug Madden. I am a trustee of the Floral Park Bellerose School District as well as a 15 year Floral Park resident.

I am here tonight on behalf of the more than 900 students at the Floral Park Bellerose Elementary School and their families as well as in support of my fellow Floral Park residents who object to the scale of this project.

As you know, the North Lot of Belmont is separated from Floral Park Bellerose School by nothing more than a chain link fence. The children of our community – our students, youth sports organizations and neighborhood children use the field that leads up to this fence all year round.

We have repeatedly asked that a physical barrier be erected on the Belmont side of the fence so that our children will not come in contact with the thousands of strangers who would be arriving in this lot including those who would be tailgating, drinking alcohol and even smoking marijuana with our Governor's support. To date, this physical barrier does not appear nor is it mentioned in the development plans. To my knowledge, no one has contacted the school district to provide any concrete details. We again request that the barrier be erected prior to any other construction beginning. We also want assurances that we will have someone from the ESD on point to promptly address any negative impact the construction may have on our day to day operations of Floral Park Bellerose School.

These are simple requests.

With regard to traffic and safety.....

There are 4 schools within the boundaries of Floral Park Village.
2 of them are on Plainfield Ave.

By some estimates, these new attractions could bring an average of 45,000 daily visitors to a surrounding area that is nearly entirely residential without any of the necessary infrastructure to accommodate anywhere near that volume of traffic. Traffic apps will send hundreds and hundreds of extra cars through our residential streets. The DEIS traffic study does not account for this in good faith.

Many of our students walk to and from school. Our buses already have difficulty traversing our narrow roads. The additional traffic will inherently endanger our children and slow emergency response times for the first responders that our community pays for itself.

Belmont Development is a good thing. However since this plan has chosen not to realistically assess its impact nor provide for appropriate infrastructure improvements, we believe it is too big and will significantly negatively impact our community and our schools. We remain hopeful that it is not too late, that our state representatives will care about us and will work with us to ensure that this development is a benefit, not a disaster.

The Board of Education and our Superintendent look forward to your outreach on these issues sooner rather than later.

Most Respectfully, Doug Madden