

BELMONT EXPANSION PROJECT

COMMENTS AT ESD PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, 1/8/19-ELMONT LIBRARY

MY NAME IS GERALD MCGOWAN

I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF THE VILLAGE OF FLORAL PARK FOR 50 YEARS AND MY REASON FOR MY ATTENDANCE THIS EVENING IS TO VOICE MY STRENUOUS OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BELMONT PARK AND ITS CERTAIN NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR VILLAGE, AND OUR WAY OF LIFE.

THE IDEA OF ADDING 47,000 DAILY VISITORS TO OUR STREETS AND THAT IMPACT ON OUR NEIGHBORHOODS FROM A TRAFFIC AND SAFETY POINT OF VIEW IS CAUSE FOR GREAT CONCERN AMONG OUR RESIDENTS.

THE ADDITION OF A SHOPPING MALL TO THE PROPOSAL GIVES ME PAUSE BECAUSE OF THE RECENT RESEARCH I HAVE DONE THAT INDICATES SUCH MALLS CAN HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON NEARBY COMMUNITIES, FOR EXAMPLE, STORES CLOSING AFFECTING THE TAX REVENUES OF THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEY ARE LOCATED- REPORTED IN THE NYTIMES ON 1/6/19 BY REPORTER PATRICIA COHEN; VACANT STORES BEING USED BY HOMELESS RESIDENTS, SUCH AS A MACY'S STORE IN A WASHINGTON DC SUBURB CREATING OTHER PROBLEMS, REPORTED IN THE NY TIMES BY REPORTER MICHAEL CORDRAY ON JUNE 6, 2018. THE NUMBER OF STORE CLOSINGS ANNOUNCED BY SEARS, KMART, GAP, PENNYS , THE IMPACT OF ONLINE SHOPPING AND THE COMPETITION OF RETAIL STORES MARSHALL'S AND HOME DEPOT ON HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE.

RETAIL MALL VACANCY RATES ARE ABOUT 9% NOW ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND EXPECTED TO CLIMB IN 2019—CERTAINLY NOT ENCOURAGING NEWS FOR THIS PROJECT.

DID I MENTION THE STAGGERING INCREASE IN TRAFFIC ON THE ROADS IN FLORAL PARK? JUST THINK OF IT 47,000 MORE VISITORS DAILY-TALK ABOUT GRIDLOCK!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION

PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING AND CANCEL THIS PROJECT WITH ITS POTENTIAL DESTRUCTION OF THIS WONDERFUL COMMUNITY MANY OF US CALL HOME