I feel like it’s the movie Groundhog Day. I see the same people up here saying the same thing they said at the last public hearing. And it’s because you are not listening to us. Floral Park’s village administration and the Belmont Task Force has treated you all with respect, professionalism and TRUST. They brought several of you including Holly Leicht, Marion Phillips and Drew Gabriel on a tour of our village and specifically pointed out the close proximity of our homes and schools to the east and north lots. You saw with your own eyes they are a stones throw away from these parking lots you intend to use. Any rational person would look at that and say “we can’t develop RIGHT HERE”. Anyone with half a brain, or half a heart for that matter would say “this would truly disturb the peaceful existence of these residents”. I am angry because common sense is not prevailing.

Your DEIS says NYRA doesn’t allow tailgating but is that really enforceable? And what about the “Islanders Honk”? Would any of you want that driving past your house at 10pm 41 nights a year? Think about that! The backstretch workers, our children and area citizens deserve to have peace & quiet. My heart is also breaking for the Elmont residents who live on Huntley and Wellington and Hathaway in such close proximity to the mega-mall - will they ever be able to park in front of their own homes again? Didn’t the RFP’s purpose state to “Benefit the neighborhoods and communities surrounding Belmont Park?”

We want that area revitalized for Elmont and all the surrounding communities. It’s about time! But the infrastructure must support it or this is irresponsible. When I spoke at the last hearing, I asked what you would do if the study shows the area cannot support a project of this size - would you just cancel the whole thing. You said no, but that you would find a solution for any serious issues found. Well the DEIS highlights “significant adverse traffic impacts” and that they will unfortunately be “unavoidable”.

You MUST make the LIRR station a full-time station that can go EAST, not just West. Then and only then, build your arena with parking on the south lot and eliminate the mega-mall. Let me repeat, we are FOR development at Belmont, just not OVER-development.

There are better options for these sites and we’re happy to help you find them. I read the other day the Nassau coliseum Hub developer had previously been negotiating with Mount Sinai to build a 100,000-square-foot research facility there. Well now that Northwell ended up being chosen perhaps Mount Sinai would like this land. Stop moving forward on a project that doesn’t have the proper infrastructure and local community support.

And let me close by saying you’ve managed to get this far because the residents of Floral Park were giving you the benefit of the doubt and trusting that your Environmental Impact Study would be done in an honest and accurate way. We truly didn’t think it would pass but you managed to manipulate the study in your favor as many expert speakers have highlighted over the last couple days. You’ve lost our trust.

Thank you.