

Kevin M Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor
Inc Village of Floral Park
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Good afternoon, I am Kevin Fitzgerald Deputy Mayor of the Inc Village of Floral Park which shares an extensive and century old neighborly border with beautiful Belmont Park. Thank you for allowing me and our residents to comment on this potentially significant intrusion in our daily lives. Over the past decade or so there have been a number of suggested uses for the some of the most valuable land and last vast open space left in eastern Queens and Western Nassau County. However in all cases in the past the impact upon Floral Park was never fully vetted and we welcome this opportunity during the scoping process to have all of our questions properly studied and analyzed to ensure that our Village and its residents standards of living are at minimum remain the same or even better, improved. During these hearings you will hear from many village officials and residents about some major concerns such as traffic, parking lot usages, etc. I would like to focus on one topic – the financial impact of the proposed development.

As an incorporated full service Village we provide all the necessary services to our residents. Being that we are mindful of keeping taxes as low as possible while maintaining a high level of service, I respectfully ask that the following questions be studied and responded to as they will have a significant impact on the aforementioned, they are :

- Due to an increase in traffic which will further strain our roads, how will the repairs to our roads be funded? Please note the Village of Floral Park receives approximately \$187,000 under the NY State CHIPS program which barley covers 2/10s of mile of road This amount has remained the same for the better part of the last decade.
- As mentioned (or to be mentioned), our residents have come to expect and absolutely deserve the current response time of less than one minute from our Police, Fire and Rescue Departments. As we will need additional Police officers (for traffic control, additional security, potential parking violations, etc) on event days and nights, any increase whether in overtime or the need to hire additional officers will have significant impact on the taxes that need to be raised. How will the Village be able to ensure that these services remain as is without an increase in taxes?
- Currently there are three thriving business districts in the Village (Jericho Turnpike, Tulip Ave and Covert Ave). These businesses are the lifeblood of Floral Park from providing necessary goods and services to employment of local residents. How will the proposed

Retail Village impact the businesses currently open in Floral Park and how will it impact future businesses opening in Floral Park?

- How will increased traffic affect our local businesses in so much as due to anticipated high levels of traffic, existing patrons will avoid our business district on event days? This could lead to a long term decline in business community and its tax base

These are just a four specific concerns amongst potentially hundreds that our residents have or will bring forth. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Village Board along with Belmont Task Force to collectively submit the necessary and probably over 100 additional questions and areas that need to be studied in depth

In closing, I would like to ask that all of our residents concerns are reviewed, thoroughly analyzed and alternatives suggested in the EIS so that any successful development at beautiful Belmont Park also ensures that the Inc Village of Floral Park is not negatively impacted but helps continue the 110 year tradition of always improving our suburban home, Floral Park

Thank You