

My husband and I recently moved to the Village of Floral Park with full knowledge that an Islanders arena was to be constructed somewhere on the 430 acre property of Belmont Park. There were NO plans for a shopping mall, hotel, or office space at that time. Nor should there be any such plans NOW.

The Cross Island Parkway has always been troubled with traffic, day or night, weekends or weekdays. The creation of these new buildings will cause an influx of drivers to seek shortcuts throughout our streets. Our residential streets will become thoroughfares and parking lots.

And let's talk about construction vehicles. They are not allowed on the Belt Parkway, nor the Cross Island Parkway. Traveling from the LIE, trucks will head south using north/south roads such as Lakeville Road, New Hyde Park Road, Little Neck Parkway, and they will travel further south (after consulting google maps) along Plainfield Avenue, Carnation Avenue and Tulip Avenue to then merge onto Hempstead Turnpike. These roads are not able to withstand the heavy deliveries to the construction sites. This is intolerable.

There should be NO parking north of Belmont Racetrack. Parking should be created south of Hempstead Turnpike AFTER you remove the plans for the hotel, shopping mall, and offices.

And here's why you should eliminate those buildings:

No sports arenas in the metropolitan area have hotels within walking distance of the venue except MSG and Barclays. Not Citifield, not Yankee Stadium, not Nassau Coliseum. There is NO reason to have a hotel at Belmont!

Secondly, a number of malls and outlet centers are empty or have a significant number of vacant stores. For example, Fortunoff's mall in Westbury, the outlet center at Deer Park, and Lake Success shopping center. The list can go on and on.

And the reason for this??? AMAZON!!!

Thirdly, office space is available in all areas of Nassau county and Queens county.

There is NO need of a new office building.

These new buildings will quickly become mere "skeletons in our landscape" to which the communities of Floral Park, Elmont, and Queens Village will say "I told them not to build it!"

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Wagner-Tyson