

Statement by Kevin Flood Belmont Task Force Member at Village Board/Belmont Task Force Information Session, Jan 3, 2019

As we have seen from our previous speakers, there are many concerns that have been brought up that will impact our village and must be addressed. But the answer to many of these issues can be mediated considerably if we address the increase in size of the project and demand that it be returned to its original size.

As you may have noticed, the project has changed dramatically since it was originally proposed and conditionally designated the winner of the 2017 RFP. Originally, the project consisted of a total of 43 acres. A large parcel south of Hempstead turnpike (which was proposed as 28 acres of parking for the development, public parkland and community space) and a smaller Parcel, immediately adjacent to the existing Grandstand (which was proposed as 15 acres to accommodate an Arena, Boutique shops and complimentary restaurants). That has clearly changed.

The project's footprint now encompasses approximately 160 acres of the Belmont Park campus. That is a growth of close to 400% since originally proposed. You may wonder, how and why has it grown so large since it was originally accepted by the State, and the very obvious answer is the addition of a large retail outlet mall that will now sit on the 28 acre parcel originally designated for parking for the development, public parkland and community centers. With the addition of this outlet mall, the only place to go to accommodate the enormous growth is north, further into the Belmont Campus and closer to our quiet residential homes and our children's schools.

Not only has the footprint of the project increased 400%, but the amount of people it intends to attract has grown as well. I would like to break that down for you in each component:

Arena (as disclosed in the Scoping Doc)

Up to 55 NHL Hockey games attracting 18,000

A <i>minimum</i> 50 Non NHL Marquee Events attracting 19,000
A <i>minimum</i> 80 Large Events attracting 11,500
A <i>minimum</i> 39 Small Events attracting 3,500

For a total of 2,996,500

Hotel/Theatre/Convention Space/Office (projected)

Attracting up to 5,000 daily visitors

NYRA (recently disclosed)

Upcoming Belmont Renovations/Night Racing & Possible Year Round Racing.
NYRA can project up to 12,000 daily visitors

Retail Outlet Mall (as uncovered & disclosed in the Public Scoping Hearing)

Attracting approx 17,000 daily visitors. Over 6,000,000 yearly visitors (almost 3 times that of the originally proposed arena)

Add these up and we conservatively project the number of people visiting the Belmont Park campus will be up to 45,000 daily visitors on average. These numbers are further supported by Richard Browne (lead developer of NYAP), who at a "Venues Now" conference disclosed that the NYAP development plans to attract over 9,000,000 people per year. That, along with NYRA, is the equivalent of a non Triple Crown Belmont Stakes day.

These numbers are very real. They are hidden in the details. They are not fully disclosed to the communities bearing all the burden. They are not publicized in Newsday. We must make our voices heard, and let the State know that we are opposed to the growing scale, scope and footprint of the project as it is currently presented.

We support development at Belmont Park but oppose over development at Belmont Park.

This is simply TOO MUCH AT BELMONT.