

Inc. Village of Floral Park: Dominick A. Longobardi - Mayor

Comments Regarding Belmont Park Re-Development DEIS:

Belmont Park Redevelopment Listening Session: January 10, 2019

Elmont Library, Elmont NY Host: Empire State Development Corp

Good evening members of the Empire State Development Corporation.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for hearing our many residents and the issues they raised over the last few days.

I ask your indulgence as I take a step back and review some highlights since this process began. As soon as this development project was first announced by Governor Cuomo, we invited members of the project team to tour our wonderful Village of Floral Park and its relationship with Belmont. We were blessed to have Holly, Marion, Dwight, Mr. John Ledecy, Zac, Anne and others join Gerry, Kevin, Commissioner McAllister and myself to tour Our Great Village and Belmont Park

It was about 4:00 on a very rainy afternoon. Commissioner McAllister drove the van and we rode around the West End of Floral Park looking at our homes and Floral Park Bellerose School and our border with Belmont Park. We took a ride inside the Belmont property by the East lot, through the North Lot and around to the then proposed project area. We saw the Cross Island Parkway, the Belmont Train Station, Hempstead Turnpike, Plainfield and Tulip Avenues, the Floral Park Recreation Center and the Floral Park and Bellerose Train Stations.

We discussed how the project may be good for all of the surrounding communities if we could generate business in the local areas.

However, we also discussed issues relating to the proximity of houses and school children to the fences at Belmont, the traffic on all of the roadways and how it might affect access to the events at the new arena. How traffic could cause major issues for residents and business owners in accessing their homes and businesses and cause problems for emergency response vehicles. We discussed how the train stations might become a hub without a full-time train station at Belmont. We talked about how we did not want the north lot being used. As an aside, at that time, use of the East lot wasn't even a thought. So please don't dare say the project hasn't expanded from its inception.

As the project evolved, issues such as the height and placement of the hotel and the location of an electrical sub-station were resolved. Open communication has been afforded to our Village and is appreciated. However, the issues of safety, traffic, use of the parking lots adjacent to our homes and schools, and all the others that have been raised since that day and over these past three days by the many concerned and caring residents who will have to live with the ramifications of the project are the same issues that were discussed in the van on the very day of the tour. Obviously, nothing has been done to address these issues and, in fact, they have only been exacerbated by the expansion of the use of more land at Belmont Park for this project.

This is a land development project. It is not about the NY Islanders. In fact, let me state again, the Village of Floral Park is not against development at Belmont or the NY Islanders Hockey Team.

But I will say this. Governor Cuomo does not own Belmont Park. The taxpayers of the State of NY own Belmont Park. And you, the Empire State Development Corp. have a responsibility to those taxpayers. This is your development project and it should not be done at the peril and cost of the quality of life of those who call the surrounding

communities home. I urge you to go back and redo this DEIS and address the issues raised by the wonderful, caring people in Floral Park and all of the surrounding communities. And please, as you do so, absolutely remember it is those people you work for.