

Talking Points of Michael Culotta Belmont Task Force Member at Village Board/Belmont Task Force Information Session, Jan 3, 2019

Belmont Park Redevelopment Civic and Land Use Improvement Project
Floral Park Community Meeting
January 3, 2019

**Michael Culotta
(Village Resident)
Talking Points**

- Introduction: Mike. Thank you for coming (holidays).
- Personal Story:
 - A few years ago, my wife and I were living in Manhattan, getting started in our careers, and we were searching for a community outside of the City to plant our roots and raise kids.
 - We stumbled upon Floral Park and instantly fell in love with it.
 - It's quiet.
 - It's safe, thanks to the local Police and Fire Departments.
 - It's family friendly and neighborly.
 - There's great schools with tons of space for kids to play.
 - There are wonderful parks with plenty of fresh air.
 - There are thriving local businesses.
 - Based on all of these factors, a home seemed to be like a great investment.
 - The village is a jewel.
 - So, we bought a house on Plainfield Avenue just a couple of blocks from the high school.
 - Since then, we've had a two-year old daughter, and we recently found out that we have another baby girl on the way.

- I'm here tonight because the Belmont Park Redevelopment would have tremendous impacts our community and on my family.
 - On many days, there could be up to 45,000 people traveling through our village.
 - That's like a Belmont Stakes Day, every day.
 - Uber would be everywhere.
 - It would turn Plainfield Avenue where I live, and some of our other main roads, into either expressways or parking lots.
 - There would be noise and smog on our quiet streets and our parks.
 - There would be bright lights in our backyards.
 - There could be tailgating in our village.
 - There would be a huge strain on our brothers and sisters at the Police Department and the Fire Department who keep us safe every day.
 - Our kids would be attending schools next to massive electrical power stations and parking lots for game days.
 - A mega mall and traffic would have a huge impact on our local businesses.
 - ESD admitted in the EIS that there would be significant negative impacts to our quality of life that it can't mitigate.
 - It's like pushing 10 pounds of development into a 5 pound bag.
 - All of this will come at the expense of our community and us taxpayers.
 - This is way bigger than a casino or the Third Track.
 - This is coming, and it will have lasting, permanent impacts, unless we do something about it.
- Call to Action: So I ask you:
 - Do you care about our community? Our families? Our children?
 - Do you want to experience Belmont Stakes Day for months out of the year?
 - Do you want to have to worry about your safety on game day?
 - Do you want to protect our local businesses?
 - Do you want to sleep in peace and quiet at night?
- If so, then we need to make our voices heard at the public hearings next week on the 8th, 9th, and 10th so that we can protect our community.
- I ask you to join us in speaking up next week. Your voices are important. One we have one shot at this. Our quality of life depends on it. Thank you.