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DATE: January 22, 2019

TO: Empire State Development
Atten: Mr. Michael Avolio
633 Third Avenue, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10017

SUBJECT: Belmont Park Redevelopment Project

I am writing this letter to you regarding the recently published DEIS for the Belmont Park Redevelopment Project.

I am the Village Clerk of the Inc. Village of Floral Park as well as a fifty-year resident. I attended all the evening public hearings to hear your presentation and the comments made by residents and the surrounding communities. Most of the comments made by all the affected communities had one common denominator – the over development of Belmont Park without addressing the obvious flaws noted in the DEIS.

The DEIS does not address, with a feasible solution, on the impacts it would have on elementary and high schools, residential homes, local businesses, emergency accessibility by local first responders and vehicles, public transportation, vehicular traffic, utilities and its infrastructure, to name a few. While some of these issues are mentioned in the DEIS there are no substantive solutions.

You have received about 1700 signed letters from Floral Park residents opposing the scope of this project and nearly 100 on-the-record comments at the public hearings. I hate to be repetitious of the comments made; however, these are serious issues that need to be considered before any shovel goes into the ground. The gridlocks Floral Park will encounter are the following: taking away business from the local businesses since there is no need to leave the complex(one stop and shop); the efforts of emergency vehicles navigating through congested streets will cause delays in response time; the taxes for the village will increase due to the additional manpower and emergency vehicles; the homes and elementary school located in the west end will be severely impacted with additional noise and strangers in the vicinity and lastly, why hasn't the MTA built a 24/7 train station

yet? Accessibility should be at the top priority before any commitment of development should occur!

Floral Park initially did not mind an arena built for the NY Islanders at Belmont Park, providing that certain lots would not be used. It's a shame that developers used an 'agreed upon use' and decided thereafter without any consideration of the hard-working neighborhoods that surround Belmont Park. At one of the public hearings, it was mentioned that Floral Park should be delighted that the NY Islanders will occupy office space in Floral Park; but what you do not hear is if employees are going to buy a house in Floral Park. Isn't one of your key officers relocating from Pittsburgh to Garden City?

Finally, there should be a MASTER PLAN to include New York Racing Association's future plans of Belmont Racetrack. The DEIS did not address what NYRA's plans are. Have we forgotten that Belmont Park also includes a racetrack, stables, bleachers and a clubhouse that is screaming for infrastructure improvements?

Please keep the 'Park' in Belmont Park and Floral Park!

Sincerely,

Susan Walsh
Village Clerk
(50 year resident)

cc: State Senator A. Kaplan
Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages
Assemblyman Edward Ra
Hempstead Town Supervisor Laura Gillen