Good Evening, I am Frank Chiara, a Trustee of the Village of Floral Park who resides in the West End of the Village. Our West End community is directly behind Belmont Race Track and will be significantly impacted by this proposed project.

Once a year we share in the excitement of the Belmont Stakes and participate in a street fair coordinated with NYRA and our business community. The day comes with some challenges: increased traffic, increased visitors, security concerns but the community has come accustom to this annual event. Some of us enjoy the day; other can’t wait till it is over. The point being, it is once a year event not a daily occurrence that this project will bring.

This project, as presented, states that there will now be up to 200 events a year at the arena, 75% which will occur at night. The retail facility will operate both day and night not to mention daytime and possible nighttime horse racing. This is a tremendous difference from a single annual event.

NYRA is also considering making improvements to its facility and the proposal states that this action is separate and apart from your project. Doesn’t sound like a coordinated effort. Even with your current plans, which you state, “are currently being evaluated and review”, the overall size and magnitude of this project has grown so big that it will drastically negatively affect the surrounding communities. Our local roads, highways and infrastructure will not be able to handle the volume of vehicles and visitors that project hopes to attract.

The way this massive project is currently presented, it will definitely affect Our Floral Park Bellerose School. This school is in the West End, 400 ft. from the North Lot. Even if 75% of
the events occur at night, what times will they start and what time will the patrons start arrive? Our schools ability to hold school events will be disturb by the noise, traffic, lighting coming from the facility. The proposal states that the North Lot will be come more active, again, 400 feet from our school, and could contain small ticket booths. The proposed vegetation buffer will do nothing to stop the noise and distractions these facilities will cause to our school.

I am requesting that this proposed project be reevaluated and at minimum be drastically reduced. Strong consideration should be given to the negative impact it will have, not only to our Village of Floral Park and but also to all our neighboring communities.

I urge you to press the pause button until a better-planned project can be put in place. A project that will have a positive impact on all the surrounding communities that it will affect.

Thank You,
Frank J Chiara
Trustee, Village of Floral Park