

Good evening, I am Archie Cheng, a Trustee of the Village of Floral Park which shares a border with Belmont Park.

Floral Park and Belmont Park are great neighbors. Our village is proud of our proximity to Belmont and of course, The Belmont Stakes Race. Every year, our Village reaps the benefits of numerous patrons of the Belmont Stakes in our restaurants and local retail shops. Our Village is so enamored with the Belmont Stakes that the day after the race, we have a street fair closing our main thoroughfare, Tulip Avenue, for a great celebration. But, there is more to this story.

On Belmont Stakes day, attendance is approximately 50 to 90 thousand and the traffic in our Village is so bad that we have to turn Plainfield Ave., a two lane road with one northbound and one southbound lane into a two lane one way northbound street. All traffic is diverted north on Carnation Avenue for cars heading west or north on Plainfield to Jericho Turnpike for all cars heading east. It takes about 4-5 hours for traffic on Plainfield to empty.

Floral Park is truly blessed with an outstanding police department that protects our residents, responds to every call for medical and fire emergencies and traffic accidents. On most shifts, a complement of 5-6 police personnel make up our police coverage. On Belmont Stakes Day, the Village adds 20 additional police personnel at an overtime cost of approx. \$24,000.00. The Floral Park Village taxpayer subsidizes this expense. But this is only one day.

I am aware that the DEIS states that “the entrances to Belmont Park at Plainfield Avenue (Gate 8) and Mayfair Avenue (Gate 9) are not proposed to be used for vehicular or pedestrian site access to the Proposed Project”. That

of course could change, it is only a proposal. Also, inasmuch as the unmitigated impact caused by the project on the Cross Island Parkway will result in massive traffic jams, drivers will find their way onto our residential streets. With the potential for 19 to 40 thousand visitors to the project 50 to 200 days a year, how much money will Floral Park taxpayers have to pay for increased Police protection? Even at half the overtime cost of Belmont Stakes Day for only 100 events it would cost our taxpayers close to \$1,200,000 or 5% of the money we currently raise in taxes. So much for the 2% Tax Cap. We are not reimbursed for any expenditures on Belmont Stakes Day and the DEIS does not mention any mitigation for the cost of any additional police overtime.

On the other hand, Nassau County will receive additional sales tax revenue and an entertainment tax of \$1.50 per patron at the arena or \$28,500.00 for a sold out event to reimburse the Nassau County taxpayer for Nassau County Police and other services. ESD will receive PILOT payments of \$5,000 to \$10,000 per event, and an amount equivalent to the actual real estate taxes subject to a ten to twenty year abatement period on the improvements phased in on a straight line basis with fixed per annum incremental rate increases to reach full tax equivalency and subject to subsequent assessments and special assessments.

In closing, I respectfully ask that this proposed project be significantly scaled back as it will significantly and permanently affect our residents property tax liability. Additionally I would ask the ESD that all of our resident's concerns are reviewed, thoroughly analyzed and alternatives suggested so that any successful development at beautiful Belmont Park also ensures that the

Inc. Village of Floral Park is not financially impacted.