August 10, 2018

Sen. Elaine Phillips
252 Mineola Boulevard
Mineola, NY 11501-2421

Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages
1690 Central Court
Valley Stream, NY 11580

Sen. Leroy Comrie
113-43 Farmers Boulevard
St. Albans, NY 11412

Assemblyman Clyde Vanel
97-01 Springfield Boulevard
Queens Village, NY 11429

Sen. Todd Kaminsky
55 Front Street Rm. 1
Rockville Centre, NY 11570-4040

Assemblyman Edward Ra
825 East Gate Boulevard, Suite 207
Garden City, NY 11530

Re: Belmont Park Redevelopment Project: Status of SEQRA Scoping Document

Dear Senators and Assembly Members:

Attached is correspondence from the Village of Floral Park’s counsel, Beveridge & Diamond P.C (B&D), to Empire State Development (ESD) which outlines the Village’s concerns regarding the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process. Also attached is a copy of the Comments of the Village of Floral Park on the Draft SEQRA Scoping Document, dated April 12, 2018, which sets forth the Village’s overall comments and concerns about this project.

The Village of Floral Park has expended considerable time, effort and expense to engage ESD and New York Arena Partners in an attempt to ensure that this SEQRA process yields a result that is not only economically beneficial to the plan proponents, but also protects the unique character and quality of the suburban communities that surround Belmont. B&D correctly summarizes Floral Park’s position, that:
Floral Park fully supports the development of underutilized lots in Belmont Park. But any proposed use must respect its quiet surrounding suburban setting. Similarly, the process must be inclusive, transparent and live up to ESD’s commitments and SEQRA’s goals. The public deserves no less.

However, as set forth in B&D’s most recent correspondence, there are troubling indications that the actions of ESD, including its apparent failure to release a Final Scoping Document, “evidence a manifest disregard of the public’s comments during the comment period and makes a mockery of the SEQRA process”.

We hope you support Floral Park’s efforts to make this an open and transparent process that protects the interests of the communities surrounding Belmont, and that you support the Village’s request for the timely release of the Final Scoping Document.

Sincerely,

Dominick A. Longobardi
Mayor

Kevin M. Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor
Belmont Track Force Chair

cc: Nassau County Executive Laura Curran
Nassau County Legislator Vincent Muscarella
Nassau County Legislator Richard Nicolello
Town of Hempstead Supervisor Laura Gillen
Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Judy Bosworth
Town of Hempstead Councilman Edward Ambrosino
Mr. Peter J. Beshar, Director, Empire State Development
Mr. Derrick D. Cephas, Esq., Director, Empire State Development
Mr. Robert R. Dyson, Director, Empire State Development
Ms. Hilda Rosario Escher, Director, Empire State Development
Ms. Joyce Miller, Director, Empire State Development
Mr. Cesar A. Perales, Director, Empire State Development
Ms. Maria T. Vullo, Ex Officio Director, Empire State Development
Mr. Marion Phillips III, Sr. VP Community Relations, Empire State Development
Ms. Holly Leicht, EVP, Real Estate & Public/Private Partnership