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EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

-----X

REMOTE PUBLIC HEARING

*RE: THE PROPOSED 2020 MODIFICATION OF
THE MODIFIED GENERAL PROJECT PLAN FOR THE BELMONT
PARK REDEVELOPMENT CIVIC AND LAND USE IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT*

-----X

December 21, 2020

6:05 P.M.

B E F O R E :

CELESTE FRYE,
The Hearing Officer

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A P P E A R A N C E S :

FOR ESD:

Doug McPherson

Other Project Participants

ALSO PRESENT:

Marc Russo, Stenographer

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P R O C E E D I N G S

3

THE HEARING OFFICER: Good

4

evening everyone and welcome to the public hearing.

5

We're just giving a few minutes

6

for attendees to join the webinar.

7

Thank you for joining us.

8

(Off the record.)

9

THE HEARING OFFICER: Good evening

10

everyone and welcome to the public hearing for the

11

modification to the Modified General Project Plan,

12

or MGPP for the Belmont Park Redevelopment Civic

13

and Land Use Improvement Project.

14

My name is Celeste Frye and I've

15

been asked by Empire State Development to conduct a

16

public hearing on the proposed modifications,

17

pursuant to Sections 6 and 16 of the New York State

18

Urban -- excuse me, Urban Development Corporation

19

Act, and to the legal notice published in the

20

November 20th, 2020 edition of *Newsday*.

21

The purpose of this hearing is to

22

afford the public an opportunity to make statements

23

and comments about ESD's proposed MGPP for the

24

Belmont Park Redevelopment Project.

25

For your information and

1

2 convenience, copies of the proposed modification
3 are available on the ESD website, which can be
4 found on the slide on your screen now.

5

To obtain hard copies of the
6 modification, please contact Stacey Teran at ESD.
7 The address is 633 Third Avenue, 37th Floor, New
8 York, New York 10017.

9

Or you can reach her by phone at:
10 212-803-3729. That's 212-803-3729.

11

In addition, hard copies of the
12 proposed modification have been filed in the
13 offices of the Nassau County Clerk and the
14 Hempstead Town Clerk, and have been provided to:

15

The Town of Hempstead Supervisor;

16

The Nassau County Executive;

17

The presiding officer of the

18

Nassau County Legislature;

19

The Chair of the Nassau County

20

Planning Commission; and,

21

The Town of Hempstead Commissioner

22

of Planning and Economic Development.

23

My purpose is to run this hearing

24

in a fair and impartial manner and to try to ensure

25

that everyone who wishes to speak has adequate

1

2 opportunity to be heard.

3

4 Tonight's hearing is not a
5 question and answer session. Rather, it's an
6 opportunity for you to present your views and
7 comments so that ESD can consider them in making
8 its final determination.

8

9 Please note that this meeting is
10 being recorded and a stenographic transcript will
11 also be produced. A link to the full recording of
12 this meeting will be made available on ESD's
13 website at:

14 ESD.ny.gov/belmont-park-redevelopment-project.

14

15 That website is also on your
16 screen.

16

17 Now I'd like to take care of some
18 administrative matters by asking the stenographer
19 to mark the following documents as exhibits to the
20 hearing transcript.

20

21 Exhibit 1, a copy of the public
22 hearing notice that appeared in Newsday, along with
23 the affidavit of publication attesting to the
24 publication of the notice; and,

24

25 Exhibit 2, the proposed
modification to the Modified General Project Plan.

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(Exhibit 1, copy of the public hearing notice and affidavit of publication that appeared in *Newsday* was marked as of this date.)

(Exhibit 2, proposed modification to the Modified General Project Plan was marked as of this date)

THE HEARING OFFICER: All comments made tonight, as well as any submitted to ESD in writing during the comment period, will be addressed by ESD in its response to comments.

Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. by January 20th, 2021. Instructions for submitting written comments can be found in the slide on the screen now. For those who cannot see the screen, the e-mail address is:

belmontoutreach@esd.ny.gov.

That's belmontoutreach@esd.ny.gov.

I'd now like to share a few additional notes regarding the public comment portion of the public hearing.

In order to give everyone an ample opportunity to speak, speakers should keep their comments limited to no more than three minutes. If a speaker is unable to conclude his or her remarks

1

2 in the allotted time, he or she may be given an
3 opportunity to continue once all speakers have been
4 given the opportunity to speak and if time allows.

5

In order to ensure an accurate
6 transcript, please state your name and the
7 community that you represent at the outset of your
8 remarks.

9

If you are appearing as a
10 representative of an organization or government
11 agency, please identify the organization or entity
12 and state its address.

13

If you signed up to speak before
14 the meeting during the registration process, we
15 have your name and you will be called during the
16 testimony portion of this meeting. If you did not
17 sign up to speak before the start of the meeting
18 but would like to speak, please identify yourself
19 using the raise hand function on Zoom.

20

Instructions for this are being
21 shown on your screen now and will be shown again
22 periodically during the meeting.

23

If you are joining by phone only,
24 you may press star 9 on your phone to indicate your
25 desire to provide verbal testimony. Participants

1

2 using the raise hand function or star nine, will be
3 added to the end of the speaker list. Speakers
4 will be identified by their name or the first and
5 last three digits of their phone number.

6

The option to sign up to speak
7 will end at 8:30 p.m., which is 30 minutes before
8 the close of the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

9

I will now give you a moment to
10 read the instructions before I move on.

11

Again, these instructions will
12 appear periodically throughout the meeting.

13

Before we begin the testimony
14 portion of this meeting to hear your comments, we
15 will hear from Doug McPherson of Empire State
16 Development, who will summarize the proposed
17 modification to the Modified General Project Plan.

18

MR. MC PHERSON: Thank you,
19 Celeste.

20

And good evening.

21

Empire State Development is
22 proposing a modification to the 2019 Modified
23 General Project Plan for the Belmont Park
24 Redevelopment Civic and Land Use Improvement
25 Project.

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The proposed modification was adopted by ESD's Directors on the 19th of November 2020. And this hearing is an opportunity for the public to provide comments on the proposed changes.

Members of the public can review the documents being discussed tonight at the web address displayed on the screen.

The Belmont Park Redevelopment Project, consists of a 19,000 seat arena, which will be:

Home to the New York Islanders;
A 340,000 square-foot retail village;
Parking;
Office space;
A hotel; and,
Community space.

The redevelopment encompasses two development parcels on underutilized parking lots.

The 15-acre site A, which is north of Hempstead Turnpike; and,

The 28-acre site B, which is south of Hempstead Turnpike.

The project also includes

1

2 renovations of two nearby community parks and the
3 first new Long Island Railroad train station in
4 over 40 years.

5

6 The first phase of the
7 redevelopment, which is construction of the UBS
8 Arena, is underway and expected to be completed for
9 the 2021 hockey season.

10

11 The proposed modification would
12 alter the project as follows:

13

14 First, it would relocate 25,000
15 square feet of allowable retail in site A to site
16 B, without changing the project's overall amount of
17 retail square footage.

18

19 Second, it would replace a 1,500
20 space parking facility under the retail village on
21 site B with a stand-alone parking structure also on
22 site B that would front Hempstead Turnpike.

23

24 The parking garage's location is
25 prescribed in the MGPP.

26

27 Third, it would update the site B
28 site plan by replacing an eight-foot berm with a
29 ten-foot wall, that together with plantings and
30 other landscaping will serve as a visual and
31 physical buffer between site B and nearby Elmont

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residences.

Fourth, the modification would increase the number of subleases allowed under the GPP from four to six to allow separate ground leases for the aforementioned parking garage and for potential office space on site A which will help facilitate financing of those two components.

Finally, the project currently includes electric shuttle transportation to the project site from the north, south and east parking lots and from the new Elmont train station.

The proposed modification would allow the shuttle vehicles to operate on zero emission hydrogen fuel technology, in addition to the previously approved electric technology.

A technical memorandum, or tech memo, has been prepared and found that there would be no new or substantial environmental impacts created by any of the changes being proposed.

And, therefore, a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is not needed.

You will find further detail on each of the aforementioned changes, as well as the tech memo on the Belmont page of the ESD website.

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The benefits of this modification include lowering the overall roof heights of the site B retail village by:

Relocating the parking;

Increasing the security and visual buffering between site B and the abutting neighborhood; and,

Creating a visual gateway to Elmont through the inclusion of a parking facility directly across the turnpike from the UBS Arena that complements the arena's architecture.

In early November, ESD presented these changes to the Belmont Community Advisory Committee.

ESD and the developer also met twice virtually with homeowners adjacent to site B to present and discuss the buffer wall proposal.

In the past two weeks, we have received new questions and comments about the height and points and material composition of the wall, among other things.

We welcome the additional feedback and we will take the necessary time during the comment period to consider these questions in

1

2 consultation with Belmont residents, elected
3 officials and the project developers.

4 Tonight's public hearing and the
5 30-day comment period that follow are additional
6 opportunities to hear from community stakeholders
7 about the proposed modification. ESD will review
8 and address comments related to the proposed
9 modifications. And those comments and any results
10 and changes will be presented to the ESD Directors
11 for their consideration.

12 Thank you all for your time.

13 It's been my pleasure to walk
14 through these changes with you and we're looking
15 forward to your comments.

16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
17 Doug.

18 As I mentioned at the beginning of
19 the meeting, if you signed up to speak before the
20 meeting during the registration process, we have
21 your name and you will be called in the order you
22 registered.

23 If you did not sign up to speak
24 prior to the start of the meeting, but would like
25 to speak, please identify yourself using the raise

1

2 hand function on Zoom. Instructions for this are
3 shown on your screen right now and will be shown
4 periodically during the meeting.

5 If you are joining by phone only,
6 you may dial star 9 to indicate your desire to
7 provide testimony. Participants using the raise
8 hand function or star 9, will be added to the end
9 of the speaker list. The option to sign up to speak
10 will end at 8:30, 30 minutes prior to the close of
11 the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

12 Each speaker will be allotted
13 three minutes to assure that everyone gets a chance
14 to provide their comments here tonight.

15 I also want to remind you that the
16 purpose of this hearing is to afford you an
17 opportunity to make comments about the proposed
18 modification to the Modified General Project Plan.
19 This is not a question and answer session nor is an
20 opportunity to discuss aspects of the projects
21 beyond the scope of the MGPP.

22 I'll begin accepting testimony by
23 calling the names of those who have registered to
24 speak, or the first and last three digits of your
25 cell phone number, if you're using the telephone

1

2 dial in function.

3

4 Elected officials and
5 representatives of government agencies will be
6 provided the courtesy of speaking first.

6

7 Periodically you will see a list
8 of the next five speakers on your screen so you can
9 prepare for your turn to speak. When your name or
10 the first and last three digits of phone number is
11 called, you will be temporarily removed from the
12 webinar and then rejoined again so that you will
13 have the option to share your video when you speak.

13

14 Once you're back on, you'll be
15 prompted to unmute yourself and we'll make sure you
16 are ready before starting the time clock.

16

17 You can scroll or swipe to see the
18 time clock on your screen to remind you of the
19 length of time left for your testimony.

19

20 I will also notify you verbally
21 when you have about 15 seconds remaining.

21

22 When three minutes have passed,
23 you will be temporarily removed from the meeting
24 again and then will be rejoined as an attendee
25 again to enable the next speaker to share their
26 video. And you'll then be invited to send in your

1

2 remaining comments to ESD's mailing or e-mail
3 address.

4

Before you begin to speak, please
5 state your name and town, village or community for
6 the record.

7

Excuse me. As a reminder, this is
8 a public hearing for the modification of the
9 Modified General Project Plan for the Belmont Park
10 Redevelopment Civic and Land Use Improvement
11 Project.

12

We also ask that speakers exercise
13 civil conduct during their testimony. Speakers
14 using inappropriate language will be muted and
15 cautioned before being allowed to continue.

16

And please also note once more
17 that this is not a question and answer session.

18

I've been told that there may be
19 some attendees who are not able to see the ASL
20 interpreter on screen. We do have simultaneous
21 American Sign Language interpretation going on. If
22 you cannot see the interpreter but you can hear me,
23 you'll have to swipe or change your view so that
24 you're able to see the person who is the ASL
25 interpreter.

1

2

All right.

3

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5

So elected officials and government agency representatives will be given the courtesy of speaking first.

6

7

I believe that our first speaker will be State Senator Anna Kaplan.

8

9

10

Senator, you will be temporarily removed and then rejoined to the meeting. And we'll give you a little time to prepare.

11

12

13

SENATOR KAPLAN: Good evening. Anna Kaplan, New York State Senator for District 7.

14

15

I just -- I'm here really more about hearing the comments of the public.

16

17

Thank you for holding this public hearing for the Belmont proposed modification.

18

19

20

And hopefully we could get some good feedback and good, important questions that could be addressed by ESD.

21

22

And with that, I'll pass it to the next person.

23

24

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very much, Senator Kaplan.

25

So at this time we are showing the

1

2 list of the next five speakers.

3 The first speaker will be:

4 L. Hookum;

5 L. Hookum, let us know what you're
6 ready.

7 MR. HOOKUM: Hello. Can you hear
8 me?

9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. But
10 there seems to be some interference. If you have
11 both a phone and a laptop or something, you may
12 want to mute one of them so that we don't have that
13 echo.

14 MR. HOOKUM: Okay.

15 You know, I am really ceding my
16 time to my president of the Queens Village
17 Association, Mo Ishmael. I was scheduled to speak
18 but he is going to be -- so that's more -- that's
19 Mo Ishmael, you know, from the Queens Village,
20 president of the Queens Village Civic Association.
21 So I ceded my time to him.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

23 Thank you.

24 Could you say that person's name
25 one more time, please.

1

2

(No response.)

3

THE HEARING OFFICER: No. Okay.

4

All right.

5

Thank you for your comments.

6

7

So I'm going to leave the list of
the remaining four of our first five speakers so

8

that you'll have time to prepare.

9

The next speakers will be:

10

Alexis Greaves;

11

Virginia;

12

Donald Rosner;

13

Matthew Hynes.

14

15

If your name is on that list, when
the time comes, remember that you will be

16

temporarily removed and then added back to the

17

meeting so that you will be able to share your

18

screen -- I'm sorry. Turn on your video and be

19

seen when you give your comments.

20

So the next speaker will be Alexis

21

Greaves. We'll give you a moment to get ready.

22

MS. GREAVES: So now you can see

23

me.

24

How are you doing today?

25

THE HEARING OFFICER: Good.

1

2

Thank you.

3

4

MS. GREAVES: My name is Alexis Greaves and I live in Elmont.

5

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9

My concern is more about Elmont Road Park and even though I want the community -- I live right behind Elmont Road Park. When it's time to fix that up, what are you going to do for the houses that live behind there?

10

11

12

13

The last time that Elmont Road Park got fixed, we had mice and rodents all in our backyards. Are you going to permit that from happening to us?

14

15

16

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18

Also, another concern I have also is there's not a lot of security at all. In the middle of the night I hear basketball bouncing and people having sex in the backyard parking lot. What are you guys going to do to secure our park.

19

20

21

22

Belmont may be wonderful and a good idea but so is the park that needs to be fixing. I don't want to see this anymore and I want to make sure that I am protected.

23

24

25

And that's it.

Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you

1

2 for your comments.

3

4 Virginia.

5

6 moment to get ready.

7

VIRGINIA: Hello.

8

9 hear you.

10

VIRGINIA: Okay. Well, first of all, this whole -- this whole project has been flawed from the start. We weren't properly notified. I mean, I live in the vicinity of the Belmont Park and I've been here all my life. My family's been here since the 1940s. They helped build Elmont, and I feel like you didn't care about what we wanted here. You didn't listen to us. You call these listening sessions, I call them (inaudible) meetings. You just let us say what we want to say and totally disregard us.

21

We shot down the whole idea of a casino over there and I know someone who is on one of the construction crews and she said, you are getting a casino. It is in our plans and we are putting it in that hotel that they are building.

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So we were lied to about that.

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We were lied to about the -- we were told that the project over here, the arena, was going to help absorb taxes. Instead my taxes just went up \$1,000. And everybody's taking a hit on that. The school didn't hear about that or they're ignoring us saying that we voted for a \$1,000 increase on taxes.

The Town is saying it's not them. It's nobody's fault why our taxes went up. All of a sudden it's our fault that our taxes went up.

We know what's going to help absorb those taxes. And now we see, again, once again, we've been footing the bill for Belmont Park all our lives and I see we're going to foot the bill for the arena now.

And we told you a million times we didn't want parking structures over there and now you're going to give us parking structures.

We told you we didn't want retail. Retail is on its way out. All of a sudden, we're getting retail.

You know, they form an advisory board. I never heard about who they were. I don't

1

2 know their names. I don't know who's on it.

3

4 We aren't being properly notified
5 with anything about this project. If you're not on
6 Facebook, you're not going to hear about it. And I
7 don't think that's fair to the residents that don't
8 go on the computer and don't go to meetings and
9 don't know about meetings. I barely knew about
10 these meetings. And they aren't on Facebook. And
11 that is not fair. That is not properly notifying
12 people.

12

13 And you took away Belmont Park was
14 there first and you -- we are entryway to Long
15 Island and Long Island is about green space. I
16 don't see green space there anymore. You put that
17 right at the edge. It is blocking Belmont Park.
18 You don't even know that Belmont Park is there
19 anymore.

19

20 You took away the convenient
21 parking for Belmont Park. Do you know people come
22 there not to just gamble, they come there to
23 picnic. It's a central meeting place for people
24 from Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Long Island,
25 Jersey. They all go there and meet their families
and have picnics.

1

2

And Father's Day is a much bigger event than Belmont Stakes Day. And I don't know where the hell people are going to go.

5

6

You know, people who have their picnic baskets and everything and their chairs and their tables. How are they going to lug that from across the street, especially the older generation.

9

10

THE HEARING OFFICER: You have 15 seconds.

11

12

13

14

15

VIRGINIA: There's no drop-off point anymore. And there's no more drop-off point anymore. Because that drop-off point, if anyone were to drop off over there, that means you're going to back up all the traffic on the turnpike.

16

17

18

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
VIRGINIA: And I don't like the project you're making.

19

20

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments.

21

22

Your three minutes are up at this point.

23

So thank you.

24

We'll go on to the next speaker.

25

Our next speaker will be Donald Rosner.

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Donald Rosner, you'll be -- you'll be removed and brought back in so that you can share our video.

(No response.)

THE HEARING OFFICER: Do we have a Donald Rosner here?

MR. ROSNER: Hi.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Hi.

MR. ROSNER: How are you doing?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Good.

Thank you.

MR. ROSNER: There you go.

Sorry.

Okay. So yeah, my name is Donald Rosner. I live in Carle Place.

I'm here to speak on behalf of this project. You know, I'm a life-long Islanders fan. I live minutes from the Nassau Coliseum now and in my experience the Islanders have done, I mean endless, endless work with the community.

I own Blue Line Deli. It's a deli in Huntington and I've had the pleasure of working with the Islanders quite a few times. And I mean they care deeply about the community, the people in

1

2 the community. And one of the big -- one of the
3 best things about this project and about the
4 parking structure is, it will keep people from
5 parking off the side streets and it will help
6 people have a place to park instead of scattering
7 all over the place trying to find a place to park
8 and, you know, I just think that that's very
9 important.

10

I mean when you go to a hockey
11 game, you know, you don't want to be struggling for
12 an hour to find a place to park, especially if
13 you're in a residential area.

14

And going back to how the
15 Islanders work, you know, just in my experience
16 they cared so deeply about, you know, and they do
17 so much charity work and it's not just a temporary
18 thing, it's a permanent, they have a permanent care
19 about the community's needs. And I have full faith
20 that they will do the project right and that they
21 will care about Elmont and the people in Elmont.

22

You know, building this arena is
23 so important to fans like us. And there's a lot of
24 us. And we're so grateful for that because there
25 were talks that they were possibly moving away.

1

2

So I mean as a fan, I'm super excited about this and, you know, that's about it.

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9

I think, also, people say, you know, when you're parking and you have to walk a mile down residential areas, you know, it could be unsafe, where if you have a parking structure there could be security and they could, you know, keep people safe. And yeah, that's about it.

10

11

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you

for your comments.

12

13

Our next speaker will be Matthew

Hynes.

14

15

16

Matthew Hynes. Is Matthew Hynes

is on the Zoom, could you please raise your hand.

Use the raise hand function.

17

(No response.)

18

19

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. We're

going to move on to the next speaker now.

20

21

22

23

But Matthew Hynes, if you are on

the webinar or if you join, please use the raise

hand function and we'll add you back to the speaker

list.

24

25

Okay. Our next five speakers will

be:

1

2

Sue August;

3

Rachelle Lewis;

4

Erika Klein;

5

Syd Mandelbaum; and,

6

Evan Babb.

7

Out of that group, Sue August will

8

be first.

9

I will remind you all that you

10

will be removed and then put back into the meeting

11

so that you can share your video.

12

MS. AUGUST: Hello.

13

THE HEARING OFFICER: Hi. We can

14

hear you.

15

MS. AUGUST: How are you?

16

I already submitted my comments

17

already but I'd like to just try to -- to emphasize

18

how Elmont residents need to be a priority in terms

19

of access to transportation.

20

And I know there's a new railroad

21

station. However, it should be -- the one that is

22

there should be accessed by Elmont residents 24/7,

23

just like any other railroad station. I know it's

24

an offshoot and all that but there's enough ways to

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get odd hour trains it has to be.

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You know, it has to be a schedule so that Elmont residents can get into New York City quickly because the other new station is not in Elmont as we know. So it needs to be -- either give us the one that's already there that we can use on a daily basis or have excellent access.

That means the shuttle buses don't run just when the games are on or when there's concerts. It should be for Elmont residents all the time to get to and from both sides of Hempstead Turnpike, whether -- so they don't have to drive to park in there.

I know you said you're using hydrogen for the buses but this is an opportunity to get more green space and solar energy, water, wind energy to use to power this facility and all the other facilities going up. This is a great opportunity to get green and even have a greenhouse for local residents or for whoever wants to utilize it, a greenhouse for organic produce and so that hopefully this propane idea is not going through. Hopefully the gas line has been resolved. I don't know about that. But that's another option that I would like to discuss.

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And, again, in terms of the local area residents, it should have a priority in terms of jobs. All the new jobs that are -- that have Elmont qualified residents that want to apply for them, they should get first dibs and hopefully this will be taken into consideration.

Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments.

County Executive Laura Curran has joined us. So we're going to give her the courtesy of letting her go next. And then we'll go back to the list we have and Erika Klein will be after that.

So County Executive Curran, let us know when you're ready.

We're hearing -- excuse me, we're hearing that County Executive Curran may be having some technical difficulties.

So we'll go back to Erika Klein.

Erika Klein, if you hear this, you will be removed and then rejoin the meeting and you can let us know when you're ready.

Oh, my apologies. I may have

1

2 skipped someone.

3

Rachelle Lewis.

4

Please excuse me.

5

6 So our next speaker will actually
be Rachelle Lewis.

7

8 Rachelle Lewis, you'll be removed
and rejoined to the webinar.

9

10 Let us know when you're ready to
speak.

11

MS. LEWIS: Can you hear me?

12

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

13

Thank you.

14

You can go ahead.

15

MS. LEWIS: Thank you.

16

17 My name is Rachelle Lewis. I am
18 from Elmont Strong. We are an organization within
19 Elmont and our questions could be echoed really
20 basically some of the questions that came up
already.

21

22 First and foremost, based off of
23 the discussion with the panel with *Newsday* during
24 the summer, there was a concern that it was stated
25 that displaced workers from the Nassau Coliseum
would get first dibs at the jobs that will be

1

2 coming up at the arena. So we do want to clarify
3 that point. We would like that to be explained
4 further or just to be clarified.

5 In addition, the next point really
6 for us is Elmont Road Park. The residents of
7 Elmont are very disgusted with the fact that
8 there's a constant change in plans and/or lack of
9 transparency of what is exactly is being done at
10 Elmont Road Park.

11 We want to know what the plans
12 are. They've had one meeting about a year, a
13 year-and-a-half ago and nothing has come out of it.
14 There's no reason why there's only shared
15 information through a virtual platform and/or
16 through someone you know.

17 We are requesting that the
18 residents of Elmont get a newsletter, every home,
19 about what is being done in Elmont, not just with
20 the arena, which is great and dandy for everyone
21 but we want to know about Elmont Road Park.

22 We're talking about our community.
23 We're talking about our kids. We're talking about
24 the homes around it and our storefronts. It is
25 very important for us to know what's going on.

1

2

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5

We were promised a lot and nothing is being said. It's being pushed off and pushed off and we really want the transparency and answers.

6

7

8

9

10

Again, we are requesting that an actual newsletter go out to all residents within Elmont so they could get an understanding of exactly what's being done specifically addressing the concerns of Elmont Road Park.

11

12

13

And I thank you for your time.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you

very much for your comments.

14

15

So now our next speaker will be

Erika Klein.

16

17

Erika Klein, thank you for your

patience.

18

19

If you're there, you'll be

rejoined to share your video.

20

MS. KLEIN: Hi.

21

THE HEARING OFFICER: Hello.

22

Thanks for joining us.

23

You can start when you're ready.

24

MS. KLEIN: All right.

25

Hi. My name is Erika Klein. I'm

1

2 a Long Island resident.

3

4 Although I've always been a fan of
5 the New York Islanders for two years, they have
6 managed to make a huge impact in my life.

7

8 I have very fond memories of the
9 Islanders when I was in elementary school during
10 field days as a child.

11

12 Now even though I barely knew what
13 hockey was, I remember them always being there to
14 support our community. The presence of a local
15 professional sports team at a small school event
16 taught me at a young age the importance of being
17 there for those in your community.

18

19 Since then I've become a huge
20 Islanders fan and I could probably name the entire
21 roster in less than a minute. As my interests
22 toward hockey grew so did the impact this
23 organization had on my life.

24

25 Over the summer, I took part in a
26 program called Mentoring Matchup. And it was run
27 by the Islanders own Tania Lawes. As someone who
28 would like to have a career working in sports, it
29 was a fantastic opportunity. I got to see the
30 inside of what really happens with a professional

1

2 sports team and I received advice on the best path
3 to pursuing my dream.

4

5 This program allowed me to meet
6 and form relationships with the amazing people
7 working within the Islanders' organization. I
8 began to understand their job and the amount they
9 care.

9

10 These hard workers put in time not
11 only for the team but for the local community of
12 Islanders fans. The Islanders' organization is one
13 that cares greatly for the people of Long Island.

13

14 The UBS arena project is an
15 incredible opportunity for this team to create more
16 revenue and attract more fans and higher quality
17 players.

17

18 This arena will give fans the
19 permanent home that they have been searching for
20 for years.

20

21 The additional parking garage is
22 crucial to the success of the project because it
23 would relieve traffic coming into the building and
24 clear congestion in the streets. The proposed
25 parking structure project is a great idea as it
will only benefit the Islanders and the community

1

2 of loyal fans and the residents of Long Island.

3

4 Thank you so much for your time
and have a healthy and happy holiday.

5

6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
for your comments.

7

8 Our next speaker will be Syd
Mandelbaum.

9

10 Syd Mandelbaum, you'll be removed
and then rejoined to the meeting and you'll be able
11 to speak.

12

13 MR. MANDELBAUM: Good evening.

14

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr.
Mandelbaum, there's feedback on your line. It may
16 be that you have both a phone and a laptop running.
17 If you could mute or turn off one of them, then we
18 should be able to hear you without the echo. We'll
unmute you to ask you to unmute to try again.

19

20 MR. MANDELBAUM: Is that any
better?

21

22 THE HEARING OFFICER:
Unfortunately not. We're still get a lot of
23 feedback.

24

25 MR. MANDELBAUM: I am -- I only
have a laptop. So I don't know why there's an

1

2 issue. Maybe I'll move a little further back or a
3 little further forward. Is that any better?

4

THE HEARING OFFICER: It sounds
5 fine when you speak but -- but we actually -- we
6 think we have your name twice on our list, which
7 means that you might be on a tablet or phone in
8 addition to your laptop.

9

MR. MANDELBAUM: I don't think so.
10 All I have is the laptop in front
11 in front of me and I'm thinking --

12

THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry,
13 Mr. Mandelbaum. We won't be able to hear your
14 testimony properly. If you could try to resolve it
15 and then raise your hand, we'll be happy to try
16 putting you back on the list again.

17

So our next speaker will be Evan
18 Babb.

19

(No response.)

20

THE HEARING OFFICER: Do we have
21 Evan Babb in the webinar?

22

MR. BABB: Celeste.

23

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

24

MR. BABB: Okay. How are you?

25

Thank you.

1

2

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

3

MR. BABB: Thank you for holding

4

this hearing.

5

Great comments from some of my

6

neighbors. And I equally share their concerns and

7

some of the concerns and I'm very happy with the

8

project as well.

9

I'm a long time resident of

10

Elmont. I'm not too far from the Elmont Road Park.

11

So, you know, hopefully the Islanders will really

12

pay attention to that as they do their

13

redevelopment of that park. It's important to us.

14

I'd like to see a partnership with

15

the schools, perhaps internships for the kids and,

16

also, as one of the other neighbors had mentioned,

17

you know, maybe opportunities for the adults as

18

well over at the stadium.

19

I'm hoping that the retail space

20

will be viable. Interesting to see how that goes.

21

With respect to the railroad, it

22

would be great if, you know, Elmont residents would

23

have access to that, you know, especially during

24

rush hour times.

25

Hopefully the parking garage will

1

2 be aesthetically pleasing and complement the
3 stadium structure, as it appears to in the -- in
4 the rendering that you provided earlier.

5

6 You know, great to have economic
7 development for Elmont. So the project as a whole
8 is pretty good. If we can realize some of that
9 economic development.

10

11 And I also love to hear the
12 commitment from the Islanders to the community and
13 I just would like to see execution of that
14 commitment.

15

16 So thank you.

17

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
19 for your comments.

20

21 The next speaker will be Senator
22 Tom Kaminsky.

23

24 Senator Tom Kaminsky will give us
25 some comments next. So you'll be removed and
brought back to the meeting and let us know when
you're ready.

26

27 SENATOR KAMINSKY: Hi. I'm here.

28

29 Thank you so much for the time.

30

31 For the record, I'm Senator Todd
32 Kaminsky. I think Tom Kaminsky is the traffic

1

2 helicopter for 880 News.

3

THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm so

4

sorry.

5

SENATOR KAMINSKY: But thank you

6

for having me.

7

It's really important that Evan's

8

comments be taken really seriously. And I agree

9

with him on a lot of what he said.

10

And thank you, ESD, for holding

11

this hearing.

12

I've always believed it's going to

13

be a transformative project for Nassau. But it's

14

always important that the community share in that

15

prosperity and really be prioritized within that.

16

So for example, it's great that

17

we're having a new rail station. This has been a

18

dream for a long time. We need to make sure that

19

residents have access to that.

20

We know that great jobs are going

21

to be created from this project. We need to make

22

sure that residents are prioritized and we're

23

making sure that local people who are qualified for

24

getting great jobs and that's what the community

25

really needs.

1

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6

We know a community center is going to be vital and we, also, know that fixing Elmont Road Park and a number of things are important. And I agree that the schools need to be taken into consideration.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

So while I'm very excited as I see this arena being built and I love the progress it's going to make for all of Long Island, Elmont needs to be at the forefront of that progress. We shouldn't have to choose between our communities and economic development. We need to do this together.

14

15

So thank you, ESD, for reaching

out.

16

17

18

Please continue to take concerns to heart and I encourage the owners, the Islanders and the whole development team to do so as well.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

I'll be there to facilitate in any way that I can. But now is the critical time to execute. Execute was Evan Babb's word. I agree with it completely. I agree it's to execute and all the things we talked about when we all supported this deal, those of us who have, was only with shared prosperity in mind with the community,

1

2 you know, right there.

3

4 So let's all continue to do that
5 together. We're at a really pivotal time and
6 instead of something falling apart and petering out
7 and being the same old same old, let's be an
8 example for all of the State and the country as to
9 how a community an economic development could do it
10 together to the benefit of everybody.

11

Thank you so much.

12

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
14 Senator Kaminsky.

15

16 And my apologies for the -- for
17 misspeaking your name.

18

19 So I believe that our next speaker
20 will be *Ciro Cesarano*. And I hope that I'm saying
21 your name properly.

22

23 *Ciro Cesarano*, if you're on the
24 call, you'll be removed and brought back in. Let
25 me know when you're ready to speak.

26

27 MR. CESARANO: Hi. Can you hear
28 me?

29

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

30

MR. CESARANO: Excellent.

31

My name is *Ciro Cesarano*. Good

1

2 try on the pronunciation. It's difficult.

3

4 I'm an Elmont resident. I work
5 here in Elmont. So far I'm very excited about the
6 Islanders move.

6

7 The UBS Arena has been great,
8 great to the community. It's had an effect on
9 business so far. Can't wait to have the team here.
10 I can't wait to go to game. We live locally.

10

11 I'll be driving to a lot of games.
12 I think the parking garage is a great idea. Not
13 only a great idea but a necessity for safety, for
14 convenience and I think the modifications are a
15 great thing.

15

16 So thank you for hearing us and
17 thank you for your time.

17

18 Happy holidays to everybody.

18

19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
20 for your comments.

20

21 Our next speaker will be:

21

22 Mohammad Ishmael.

22

23 (No response.)

23

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Mohammad
25 Ishmael, if you're -- let me know when you're ready
to speak.

1

2

MR. ISHMAEL: Hello.

3

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. You

4

can go ahead.

5

MR. ISHMAEL: Okay.

6

Good evening.

7

And thank you for the opportunity.

8

I'm Mo Ishmael. I'm the president

9

of Queens Village Civic Association.

10

And thank you for the opportunity.

11

While we at Queens Village Civic

12

support this overall project, we need to record our

13

concerns regarding the amendment on site B.

14

We feel this amendment will make

15

that area more congested as far as the impacting

16

the residents of Elmont and Queens Village.

17

Also, the amendments on site B

18

will result in a negative impact on community

19

residents. It's our main concern. It's a large

20

parking structure shifting space from site A to

21

site B will make site B, which is closer to

22

residents, more congested.

23

The congestion of site B has

24

eliminated the open space that was necessary for a

25

landscape berm, which will be replaced with an

1

2 unsightly wall for the residents on the east.

3

4 Not sure of the height or material
5 impact on the community and the environmental
6 impact that was done. We will need some more
7 information.

7

8 The residents of Queens Village
9 were always concerned about the traffic impacts the
10 overall structure will have on the surrounding area
11 and especially in Queens Village. We would like to
12 see the latest impact study and the scope of the
13 work to mitigate the additional traffic.

13

14 We understand -- our understanding
15 was that Queens Village and the surrounding
16 communities were promised athletic programs in
17 schools and community centers. We would like to
18 see details on the plans and any roll out schedule.

18

19 We would like to have details on
20 the community space and the community access and
21 usage of that space.

21

22 Thank you for the opportunity to
23 address you.

23

24 Thank you.

24

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
for your comments.

1

2

The next speaker will be Eric

3

Altstadter.

4

And then so our next set of

5

speakers will be:

6

Eric Altstadter;

7

Benji Vogel;

8

Gary Harding;

9

Patrick Dowd, aka the sign guy;

10 and,

11

Evan Minogue.

12

And do we have Eric Altstadter.

13

MR. ALTSTADTER: Yes, I'm here,

14

Celeste.

15

Can you hear me?

16

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. You

17

can go ahead.

18

MR. ALTSTADTER: Okay. Great.

19

Thank you.

20

I wasn't sure this was going to

21

work. This worked out very nicely.

22

Thank you very much.

23

I'm here representing myself. I'm

24

a CPA and I'm a fan of the Islanders and I've been

25

a fan since the Islanders joined the NHL back when

1

2 I was 14 or 15. And I've been a season ticket
3 holder for over 25 years, including those years,
4 those dark years in Brooklyn. I used to go to 35
5 to 40 games a year when the team was in Brooklyn.
6 And I already have my season tickets for the UBS
7 arena.

8

I know today's about parking.
9 People are going to come to this arena. Scott,
10 John and Tim, are building an arena that will be
11 world class and second to none. And access to
12 parking is imperative for an arena like this to be
13 successful.

14

Parking in a facility that is
15 being proposed will be safer for the fans, as well
16 as for the local community.

17

My kids grew up at the Coliseum.
18 My son is 28 now. He's an attorney and my baby is
19 24. She's a health care worker at Northwell
20 Hospital now. And our family nights included trips
21 to the Coliseum for games. All four of us, myself,
22 my wife, my two kids. It included before the game,
23 we would meet friends in the parking lot, included
24 after the game at Hewlins Pub, listening to Chris
25 King do his post game show.

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And we even went to -- we went to games during sunny days, during rain storms and during snow storms. And, in fact, I remember going to the Coliseum for one game that it was so bad that Charles Wang and his family, that each and every person as they entered the arena, with a hot drink and a hat, thanking us for coming.

The Islanders have always been about family and I think this new facility that's being built will be great. I'm looking forward to it. I can't wait to go to a game in Belmont. I can't wait for the hockey season to start.

And I can't wait to go to the new arena and park my car in the new facility that's being built.

Thank you very much.

And happy holidays to everybody.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments.

Our next speaker will be Benji Vogel.

Benji Vogel, we'll give you a moment to get ready.

MR. VOGEL: Hello. Can you hear

1

2 me?

3

4

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. You
can go ahead and start.

5

6

MR. VOGEL: How are you guys doing
tonight?

7

8

THE HEARING OFFICER: Good.

Thanks.

9

10

11

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25

MR. VOGEL: Very good.
So my name is Benji Vogel. On
behalf of myself and the Islanders. I'm a third
generator Islanders fan. I'm 17 years old and
although I may be much younger than a lot of the
other speakers who are on here tonight, I would
like to say that I know so much about the
Islanders. I've been a life long fan. I've been
in love with this team since I was born.

And I spent much of my time
growing up in the Nassau Coliseum and I'd like to
say that it was really and truly a magical
experience. Although many people say that the
building may be run down, it's really home for all
the true Islanders fans. And I'm very excited to
transition from the Coliseum to the Belmont Park
Arena, the UBS Arena.

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And I've heard so many wonderful things about the arena, like the sight lines and all of the great standing room areas for the fans to enjoy themselves and I'm very excited for the train station that's coming in and I think that's going to be great as well.

Although many fans, including myself, hated taking a train on the tracks to the Barclay Center in Brooklyn, I'm very excited to re-live that and spent time now on the railroad getting to the UBS Arena. And I'd also like to say, I know many people have been discussing the parking garage. I'd like to say that is absolutely necessary just because of the congestion that could be on the public streets would not be for the parking garage. And I know that was already said but it's just absolutely paramount to be noted because it's really necessary for the community and to the fans to be able to park their cars.

One question I'd like to add though is that I want to make sure there's enough parking for all the fans in the parking garage. I'm just curious about that. I want to know exactly how many spots because I know since it's a

1

2 19,000 seat arena and I believe a little bit less
3 for the fans on game night.

4

I'm a little bit curious to hear
5 about how many cars will be allowed to park in the
6 garage because if it's only a small amount I'm
7 afraid that it will overcrowd the train station.

8

So that's just a question I'm
9 wondering and I'm sure many others have as well.

10

And that's pretty much all I have.

11

I appreciate you allowing me to
12 come on here and share my views.

13

So thank you very much.

14

THE HEARING OFFICER: Great.

15

Thank you for your comments.

16

Our next speaker will be Gary

17

Harding.

18

Gary Harding, let us know when

19

you're ready to speak.

20

MR. HARDING: Hi. Can you hear me

21

okay?

22

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. You

23

can go ahead and start.

24

MR. HARDING: And thank you very

25

much for the opportunity to speak.

1

2

3

My name is Gary Harding. I am
from Halesite.

4

5

6

7

8

I am a 30-year -- plus I owned a
season ticket holder, as well as for the past 20
years I am an officer in the New York Islanders
Booster Club, which is the official support
organization for the hockey team.

9

10

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19

I'm going to talk in a little bit
of a different mode than some of my fellow
Islanders fans spoke. In my 30 years of supporting
the team and running the fan club, we've been able
to take trips to -- I've actually been to about 35
different arenas over the last 30 years and I have
seen in some cases, the good, the bad and in some
cases the ugly, you know, in how the arenas have
been presented to the, you know, the community and
what amenities are involved and what are available
to the fans that come to these different places.

20

21

22

23

24

25

I think the vision that John,
Scott and the Islanders organization has done to
have not just the arena, but have a destination.
And a lot of places that I've been to, for example
such as Los Angeles, Dallas, they not only have the
arena but you have the whole experience of, again,

1

2 a shoppers village, a -- you know, all these
3 different amenities that have the experience of not
4 just going and driving into a parking lot and going
5 to a two-hour event and driving back.

6 It's a matter of having people
7 spend the whole day visiting the arena and watching
8 the game. The whole total package. For example,
9 there's the arena in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada was
10 basically built on a land where a town basically
11 developed as a result of the arena being built.
12 There was nothing around and the community in
13 Ontario basically built the town around the arena.

14 So there are different
15 opportunities. And I think I'm positive, and I'm
16 absolutely confident that the management of the
17 Islanders and the whole crew that are building this
18 whole facility have done what I think is the right
19 thing where they, you know, want to make a
20 destination for everybody.

21 And I hope and I'm sure that in
22 these particular, you know, steps that they've
23 taken that they are trying to make sure that the
24 community needs are held and that, you know, their
25 needs are warranted and -- and respected. And I

1

2 can't see a project of this undertaking happen
3 without that -- without that.

4

Getting to know Mr. Ledecy and
5 Mr. Mulker (phonetic), as I have through the fan
6 club, I know that their passion and their
7 commitment and they're absolutely looking for every
8 possible detail is being done.

9

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
10 Mr. Harding.

11

Your time is up but thank you so
12 much for your comments.

13

So we have, I believe, the County
14 Executive Laura Curran has been able to rejoin the
15 webinar. And so we'd like to invite her to speak
16 next.

17

County Executive Curran. We'll
18 wait for you and let us know when you are ready.

19

COUNTY EXECUTIVE CURRAN: Hi.

20

THE HEARING OFFICER: Hi. You can
21 start whenever you're ready.

22

COUNTY EXECUTIVE CURRAN: All
23 right.

24

Thank you very much.

25

So I have been a supporter of this

1

2 project from the very beginning. It accomplishes
3 three really important things for Nassau County,
4 let's say a hat trick.

5

6 It's jobs. Obviously construction
7 jobs, thousands of them. Thousands of permanent
8 jobs.

9

10 It's revenue for local government.
11 Great for the economy.

12

13 And there -- it keeps the
14 Islanders here in Nassau County where they belong.

15

16 So I am supporting this
17 modification. I think the fact that the parking
18 structure has the same facade as the arena is a
19 real bonus, is a real win.

20

21 And, you know, I just have to
22 thank Empire State Development.

23

24 I have to thank the Oak View
25 Group.

26

27 And the Islanders for making this
28 a reality.

29

30 And like I said, I'm fully
31 supportive of the project and I'm fully supportive
32 of this modification.

33

34 So thanks for having me and I'll

1

2 turn it back over to you.

3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Great.

4 Thank you for your comments,

5 County Executive.

6 So the next speaker on our list is

7 Patrick a/k/a sign guy, Dowd.

8 You can let us know when you're

9 ready to speak.

10 MR. DOWD: Yes. Ready to go.

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Great. You

12 can begin.

13 MR. DOWD: So I want to just say

14 that I fully support this project from the

15 beginning to the end and the end hasn't come yet.

16 The vision that the owners have

17 had for the Islanders to have this Belmont arena

18 has been good for everybody; the community for the

19 Islanders, for its fan base and for everybody as a

20 whole. Economically it's going to be a fantastic

21 situation.

22 I will say a few things. I'm a

23 life time Islanders fan from '72. First game was

24 back at the Nassau Coliseum back in September

25 against the Rangers. So I've been through a lot.

1

2

3

4

5

6

What this new arena brings is an identity to Long Island. It brings somewhat of a future for the Long Island people because the Islanders are the only franchise that are on Long Island.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

And I want to say that -- I want to say this really hard and very softly with the community to be sure, and ensure, that everybody's on board here in terms of getting jobs, in getting of the community being -- understanding what's going to happen to help them and benefit them. So those are all important things.

14

15

16

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19

20

But the parking garage is something that I like to talk about because this is the experience that I shared with the Coliseum through the years. And my experience would be to park, try to find a way through the parking lot and get to the Coliseum and it was a horrible experience before I had even gotten to the arena.

21

22

23

24

25

The parking garage will be a great asset for the Islanders and for their fans because it will eliminate all those elements such as the snow, the rain and any kind of uncomfortable situations.

1

2

3

4

5

6

So I -- I really feel that this project's going to be good for everybody. It's been looked into and all the facts have been taken care of here. So it's just a matter of executing it.

7

8

9

Anybody who has concerns with this, rest assured this project will get done properly and for the benefit of all.

10

Thank you.

11

THE HEARING OFFICER: Great.

12

Thank you for your comments.

13

Our next speaker will be Evan

14

Minogue.

15

Evan Minogue, just please let us

16

know when you're ready.

17

MR. MINOGUE: I'm here. Can you

18

hear me?

19

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. You

20

can go ahead.

21

MR. MINOGUE: How do you follow

22

the sign guy? That's pretty crazy.

23

I've lived -- I'm from Floral

24

Park. My name is Evan Minogue. And I've lived

25

here for all of my 53 years, almost 53 years. And

1

2 I've seen Belmont, what it has been and what it can
3 become.

4

5 And I think the fact that the
6 parking lot is -- the rendering that we saw earlier
7 looks pretty nice. I think that would look a lot
8 better than the parking lot that the two lots have
9 been; the north lot and the south lot of the last
10 many years.

11

12 But it seems to me that an -- from
13 what I know, but it seems to me that an
14 above-ground parking facility would be a lot better
15 than digging a giant hole in the ground, more
16 environmentally friendly than digging a giant hole
17 in the ground, as was previously proposed.

18

19 So I think -- I think this parking
20 facility is a great idea. And I like the way it
21 looks and I think it would be appealing -- more
22 appealing than what was predisposed -- offered
23 before by the builders for the local people that
24 are in Elmont.

25

26 I would think that maybe to help
27 ease congestion and traffic during the games, or
28 any event that's at the arena, if you had sort of
29 an EZPass style entry so that nobody has to pay the

1

2 attendant or get change for a 50 or a 20 or try to
3 find the app on their phone that has the bar code
4 to enter the parking -- the building or the north
5 lot. And it's just an idea and I don't know if
6 that's on the table with the designers of the arena
7 but I thought that might help. That would probably
8 help ease the traffic condition all over the area.

9 But that's all I have to say and I
10 think that rendering looks pretty good. And as to
11 everything I've seen so far, it looks aesthetically
12 pleasing to me for the arena.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
15 for your comments.

16 I think we have another group
17 coming up but we're just finalizing who will be in
18 that next group. Do we -- okay.

19 We have -- so we have some names
20 but I think before that we have a few people,
21 including a gentleman who wasn't able to speak
22 earlier. So our next speaker currently will
23 be Susan Ganz.

24 And then we'll go to Syd
25 Mandelbaum; and,

1

2

Then Max Feinberg.

3

4

And then we'll move on to the speakers that are showing right now.

5

6

7

8

9

So Susan Ganz is next on the list. But we're not finding your name in the attendees. So Susan Ganz if you're here, could you please raise your hand via Zoom or press star 9 on your phone if you called in.

10

(No response.)

11

12

13

14

15

16

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Susan Ganz, if you are here, please use the raise hand function or star 9 on your phone to let us know. And in the meantime, we'll move on to Syd Mandelbaum, who tried to -- who was trying to speak earlier.

17

18

19

Syd Mandelbaum will be brought back in and to show your video and to have a chance this time to share your comments.

20

MR. MANDELBAUM: Good evening.

21

THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, no.

22

23

MR. MANDELBAUM: Are we still in a situation?

24

I'll try to speak briefly (echo).

25

THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry,

1

2 Mr. Mandelbaum. In this type of situation the more
3 words you say the more they echo. And so it
4 quickly gets worse.

5 But we're going to unmute you and
6 let you try again.

7 So I think we'll asks you to
8 unmute.

9 MR. MANDELBAUM: Good evening.
10 (Echo). We're trying every way to do this.

11 I am a partner of the New York
12 Islanders for the last 16 years. We do food
13 recovery from the arena and stadiums and over the
14 last 16 years, the Islanders fed over 120,000
15 people (echo).

16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Can we
17 unmute Mr. Mandelbaum again.

18 MR. MANDELBAUM: Is there any -- I
19 don't believe it's on my end. I Zoom quite
20 frequently every day and haven't had this before.

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: If you could
22 just briefly state your comments. We're going to
23 let you keep going because we do believe that it's
24 important and we want you to get to speak.

25 MR. MANDELBAUM: Thank you.

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Since 2005, over 120,000 people have been fed with food that was generated and recovered and fed people in the local communities.

We are a sustainability organization and we're very proud that the hydrogen fuel cells are going to be used.

The New York Islanders have diverted over 6,500 pounds of greenhouse gas by giving food to feed the hungry and has saved over 55 million gallons of water that would have been used to grow the food.

The New York Islanders also have donated over 40,000 non-perishable items to feed the hungry of Long Island through Lock and Wrap It Up, a charity of which I am CEO. We have worked closely first with Charles Wang but recently we have worked with Dan Liner (phonetic), who really has their finger on the pulse of the community.

We are so proud that you're going towards a more sustainable way of transporting people and it fits right in line with what the Islanders have already done and is committed to have a more sustainable way of handling the excess foods.

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The Islanders was the first team to do this and the National Hockey League adopted our program and quite a number of other hockey teams now are using the model that the New York Islanders set up to make sure that no food is thrown away if it can be eaten by local community -- used by local community organizations.

So we are very proud of the Islanders with our relationship. I believe that the parking facility will only add to the comfort of those fans that we are going to gain. And we wish them the best of luck. We hope this is another way for them to have a footprint in the local community.

Celeste, thank you so much.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very much for your comments.

So our next -- our next speakers, sorry, we've been notified that Assemblymember Clyde Vanel has joined us. So we'll let him -- give him the courtesy of the next opportunity to speak and then we'll go back to the next person on the list.

So Assemblymember Vanel, if you

1

2 can let us know when you're ready to start.

3

ASSEMBLYMEMBER VANEL: Well, good
4 evening, Celeste.

5

First of all, I'd like to thank
6 ESD and th Islanders for opening this up and
7 bringing this to the community. We're excited to
8 have the UBS Arena in the community between Queens
9 and Long Island.

10

We want to make sure that we are
11 partners with -- with the Islanders. We are a
12 community partners and it's very important that we
13 continue to do this.

14

As a matter of fact, I believe so
15 much that we need to do that that I, myself
16 personally, have become a new season ticketholder.
17 But we want to make sure that the community is
18 properly involved. And, also, we want to minimize
19 the negative impacts as -- the negative impacts on
20 the community as my Queens Village Civic
21 Association president so eloquently stated.

22

We want to make sure that there's
23 joint prosperity and economics and community
24 opportunities in education. We want to make sure
25 that the retail space is -- has great retail. We

1

2 want to make sure also that there's ample parking,
3 that the Long Island Railroad station is a
4 full-time station, that is station where residents
5 are able to use the -- the station.

6

We also want to make sure that the
7 community space is done well and that the Elmont
8 Road Park is -- is constructed well and other park
9 spaces and outdoor spaces are done well.

10

We're also excited about the
11 office spaces that are -- that are proposed.

12

But at the end of the day, we want
13 to make sure that we are good community partners
14 and that we have a long term, good standing
15 relationship with the Islanders organization.

16

We want to make sure that our
17 communities are benefiting and we want to make sure
18 that we have a winning team.

19

Go Islanders. Go community.

20

Thank you, everyone.

21

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
22 very much.

23

And I believe that Senator Comrie
24 has now joined us.

25

So we're going to give him the

1

2 courtesy of speaking at this time.

3

4 Senator Comrie, please let us know
5 when you're ready to begin.

6

7 SENATOR COMRIE: Yes, hello. Can
8 you hear me?

9

10 THE HEARING OFFICER: We can.
11 You can start whenever you're ready.

12

13 SENATOR COMRIE: Yes. Good
14 evening, everyone.

15

16 I just want to echo what my other
17 elected officials have said.

18

19 I've been a supporter of the UBS
20 Arena project since the beginning. The Elmont Long
21 Island Railroad station, the issues of community
22 space and community opportunity are paramount to
23 the concern. And I want to make sure that those
24 are all addressed.

25

26 I think the parking garage that is
27 being proposed makes sense in that area. I did not
28 ever think that an underground garage would be
29 viable.

30

31 So I just wanted to -- I encourage
32 that we continue to listen to the community and
33 actually do a community wide newsletter so that the

1

2 community can be informed and aware of the
3 activities that are happening and the end option
4 will be for the site so that we can make sure that
5 everyone can be aware of exactly what's going on.

6 And I want to thank UBS and all of
7 the partners and thank everyone for continuing to
8 air their concerns and their ideas so that we can
9 make sure that at the end of the day that this site
10 will be beneficial both for the Islanders fans for
11 keeping it on Long Island and, also, the residents
12 of eastern Queens and Nassau who will be directly
13 impacted by this as well.

14 So thank you all for continuing to
15 do the outreach. I think the full newsletter to
16 the entire community is important and should be
17 done and we can do everything possible to ensure
18 that there's no one in the community that's not any
19 of all the aspects of the project.

20 Thank you for allowing me to
21 speak.

22 I wish everyone a happy holiday.
23 Please stay safe and please wear your masks.

24 Thank you.

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,

1

2 Senator Comrie, for your comments.

3

4 So we are going -- I believe we
5 had said we would have Max Feinberg speak next.

6

7 And then we'll go on to this list.

8

9 So if Max Feinberg is on, if you
10 could -- we'll get you ready to speak and you'll
11 let me know when you're ready to start.

12

13 MR. FEINBERG: Hey, Celeste, can
14 you hear me?

15

16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

17

18 MR. FEINBERG: Thank you for
19 giving me the chance to speak in support of this
20 project. Hopefully I can bring a little bit of a
21 unique perspective here, both as a local restaurant
22 owner and as the Director of the Matt Mardin
23 Foundation.

24

25 I think what County Executive
Curran speak with regard to about the economy is
incredibly important and as a restaurant owner in
the area, this is an opportunity to generate
traffic and generate jobs, not both in the projects
but in local restaurants and local shops and small
businesses as well at probably a time in our lives
when we could really use the help.

1
2 I can also give the unique
3 perspective of speaking a little bit just about the
4 community outreach that the team does in the area
5 as well. And I've had an opportunity to work hand
6 in hand with them and Matt's Foundation. But the
7 programs for children in the areas for schools in
8 the area, for young hockey players in the area, for
9 old hockey players in the area and for those that
10 don't play hockey is second to none. And I think
11 that our community, the community around this
12 project is stronger having the Islanders involved.

13 The work that Ann Reiner
14 (phonetic) and her department do is tremendous.
15 The work that the players do is tremendous.

16 And with regard to the parking
17 lot, it seems to me it would only be a win win.
18 And I know from having a restaurant in the area,
19 residents are always concerned with people parking
20 on the street. Parking is sometimes scarce,
21 especially on the side streets in that area in
22 Elmont. And if we can keep the fans parking in a
23 parking lot, it will only help alleviate those
24 concerns.

25 So thank you again for giving me

1

2 the chance to speak briefly here.

3

And let's go Islanders.

4

5 for your comments.

6

7 So at this time, we'll go to the
8 list of speakers that you've seen a few times. At
9 the conclusion of this list we will take a brief
10 break, in part to give our hard working
11 stenographer and ASL interpreter a break.

12

13 But first we will have the
14 following four speakers.

15

Frank Galinanes;

16

Charles Razenson;

17

Andrew Sapienza; and,

18

Julia Wender.

19

20 As a reminder, you'll be briefly
21 removed and brought back to the meeting so that you
22 can share your video. And the first speaker in
23 this group will be Frank Galinanes.

24

25 MR. GALINANES: Hello. Can you
hear me?

26

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. You
can go ahead when you're ready.

27

MR. GALINANES: Hi. Good evening.

1

2

3

And thank you very much for
introducing me here into this meeting.

4

5

6

7

8

I -- my name is Frank Galinanes.
I am a life-long New Yorker. I've lived on Long
Island since I was four years old. And the
entirety of my life, I've been an Islanders fan, as
well as many of the other speakers.

9

10

11

12

13

But for the entirety of my life,
Belmont has always been an underutilized area of
Long Island. It's been acres of car storage and
flea markets. And this project finally brings
positive, sustainable development to the area.

14

15

16

17

18

19

It's a focal point destination for
all of Long Island, instead of having an
underutilized, almost blighted area. We cannot
allow nimbyism and special interests to derail this
project in growth, as Long Island is notorious for
in its history.

20

21

22

23

24

25

This project will generate jobs,
increase revenue to the area, while concurrently
giving Long Islanders an entertainment destination,
as well as finally giving the area's only
professional team a new home on Long Island where
it should be.

1

2

3

4

5

The Islanders are part of our unique identity for nearly 50 years and ownerships and commitment to our community has been proven time and time again.

6

7

8

9

The parking changes will enable a safe and contained parking for events, shopping and hotel in a manner that fits with the look and feel of the racetrack in the area.

10

11

12

It will help us to continue to make sure that people are safe when they're coming into the area.

13

14

The other changes will also benefit the local communities.

15

16

17

18

I encourage the developers and ownership to continue to work with the community, to reinforce their community -- their commitment to community residents.

19

20

I fully support the modifications for the projects and all of its benefits.

21

22

And thank you very much for the time.

23

Thank you.

24

THE HEARING OFFICER: Excuse me.

25

Thank you for your comments.

1

2

Our next speaker will be Charles

3

Razenson.

4

Charles Razenson, if you let us

5

know when you're ready to speak.

6

MR. RAZENSON: I'm here. Am I

7

ready to go?

8

THE HEARING OFFICER: Great. You

9

can start when you're ready.

10

Could you -- Charles Razenson,

11

could you unmute yourself and go ahead and start.

12

(No response.)

13

THE HEARING OFFICER: Well, we

14

can see you now.

15

Okay. I'll -- can you try to

16

unmute yourself. Okay.

17

My apologies but there seems to be

18

some technical difficulties and we aren't able to

19

hear you. It's stating that you're muted.

20

If you -- if you want to try again

21

to speak, please raise your hand and we'll put you

22

back onto the list.

23

Thank you so much.

24

We will move on to the next

25

speaker now. Just let us know if you want to try

1

2 again.

3

4 Sapienza.

5

6 me?

7

8 can go ahead when you're ready.

9

10 say thank you for letting me come here today.

11

12 late father, Paul Sapienza, who was a fervent

13 supporter of this project from the beginning, as

14

15 were me and the rest of our family.

16

17 and raised. I went to St. Boniface School when it

18 was a school on Elmont Road. So those Elmont Road

19 Park things people were talking about sounds great.

20

21 That guy Frank kind of stole my

22 theme a little bit. Being born and raised here in

23 this Town and seeing Belmont Racetrack be this huge

24 thing for one day a year, always seemed

25

26 underutilized to me. We really should have been

27

28 doing more stuff with the area. So I'm really

29

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We were in favor of any stadium but the fact that it's an Islanders stadium is even extra better. We are born and raised Islanders fans here just like everybody else.

But -- so the main thing I think we're here today is about the garage being moved. It was supposed to be underground and they're moving it above ground. I think that's a no brainer. It's definitely safer. It keeps people safe from the elements. It's like that guy was saying and I know a big part of why people have been liking the stadium in Brooklyn was a big part of going to Islanders games is the tailgating. And going there like early in the day and hang out in the parking lot all day and hanging out afterwards.

So I think the parking garage is excellent for that, for people to be able to continue to do that. So -- yeah.

Thank you for letting me come here today.

I'm definitely in favor of everything and definitely proud to help out whenever we can.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Great.

1

2

Thank you for your comments.

3

The next speaker will be Julia

4

Wender.

5

Julia Wender, let us know when

6

you're ready to start.

7

MS. WENDER: Hi. Can you hear

8

me?

9

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. Go

10

ahead.

11

MS. WENDER: I became a New York

12

Islanders fan since I was a little kid. Every

13

weekend I would go to a game at the Nassau Coliseum

14

with my family and I loved every second of it.

15

When I found out that the New

16

York State approved the Islanders fans for the

17

Belmont area, I was so excited. Too often the team

18

went through questions surrounding where they would

19

play the next season.

20

In Brooklyn you couldn't see the

21

full ice. It was dark and cavernous and way too

22

cold. While the Coliseum was my second home it

23

also wasn't perfect. Luckily Belmont will be.

24

For the first time, the Islanders

25

would have a state-of-the-art facility that would

1

2 have great food, great sight lines and be in a
3 great location.

4

I was reading an interview with
5 the president of UBS Arena online and you can see
6 that the team was really thinking of everything
7 from the concession standpoint where they're making
8 a priority to make their prices reasonable and
9 they're working with a lot of local restaurants.

10

During these unprecedented times,
11 hygiene is clearly a main concern, with a bunch of
12 touchless options from ticketing, payment and
13 bathrooms, plus twice the amount of air drafts,
14 they're addressing those concerns.

15

The Islanders are doing everything
16 they can to make sure that the Elmont and Floral
17 Park communities are kept up to date with the arena
18 plans, which we can see here tonight. They could
19 have easily disregarded the people that live near
20 the arena but they didn't do that.

21

Even though I don't live in Elmont
22 or Floral Park, I can clearly see how transparent
23 this process has been. The Islanders hold events
24 like this regularly. They're easy to contact and
25 they're going the extra mile to make their future

1

2 neighbors comfortable.

3

4 I remember seeing on Twitter how
5 the Islanders joined a local parade or how they
6 would visit schools in the area. It's obvious
7 they're really trying to bring the community
8 together.

8

9 Like I said, I grew up a die hard
10 Islanders fan and I'm obviously a little sad that
11 the Coliseum could not be the Islanders long term
12 home but I'm really excited about Belmont being a
13 home for fans for the next generation.

13

14 Through the organization's
15 transparency, it's clear that they're trying to
16 make everyone feel the same way.

16

17 Thank you.

17

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
19 for your comments.

19

20 And so I believe at this point, we
21 are going to take a short break.

21

22 We will take at this point a
23 ten-minute recess. If you signed up to speak and
24 have not yet had your turn, we still have your name
25 on the list and will be continuing in the same
26 order of speakers when we return at eight -- excuse

1

2 me, 7:45.

3

4 So we're going to switch a ten
5 minute timer. If you want to leave your Zoom on or
6 if you want to briefly exit the meeting and come
7 back in ten minutes.

8

9 Again, we still everyone's name
10 who has signed up to speak or who has done a raise
11 hand or star 9 and we will restart the hearing at
12 7:45. p.m.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 (At 7:35 p.m., the hearing was
17 temporarily recessed.)

18

19 (At 7:45 p.m., the hearing was
20 resumed.)

21

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
23 everyone.

24

25 And welcome back -- excuse me,
26 Belmont Park Redevelopment Modified General Project
27 Plan hearing.

28

29 Again, this is the public hearing
30 for the modification to the Modified General
31 Project Plan for the Belmont Park Redevelopment.

32

33 And we have a list of speakers but
34 we also have now been joined by Assemblymember

1

2 Solages, who we'll give the courtesy of speaking
3 next.

4 Assemblymember Solages, you will
5 have three minutes. Actually, perhaps -- just a
6 reminder to everyone, you will have up to three
7 minutes to give your comments. This is a time for
8 sharing comments and testimony. This is not this
9 evening a question and answer session. And I just
10 want to remind everyone that if you -- we ask that
11 you keep your comments appropriate and if necessary
12 we would mute and warn you if there are any
13 technical difficulties or inappropriate comments.

14 And with that, we'll restart.

15 Assemblymember Solages, whenever
16 you are ready, let us know and you will be able to
17 begin.

18 (No response.)

19 ASSEMBLYMEMBER SOLAGES: For the
20 record, my name is Michaelle Solages, New York
21 State Assemblymember representing the 22nd Assembly
22 District, which includes Elmont and Floral Park.

23 I know that we live in a new norm
24 of COVID-19 but this should not delay or impede the
25 community benefits that are owed to the community.

1
2 I stand in solidarity with the
3 residents who spoke about the upgrades to Elmont
4 Road Park, prioritizing the community center,
5 prioritizing jobs for the community members who
6 live in the surrounding area, which is Elmont,
7 Floral Park, Valley Stream, Franklin Square, as
8 well as the developer building relationships with
9 many of the restaurants and small businesses in the
10 surrounding area, especially those struggling MWBE
11 restaurants.

12 I urge ESD and the developer to
13 continue hosting community meeting, however
14 increase the frequency of those meetings and, also,
15 expand them to the entire community.

16 So due to my limited time, I will
17 speak -- I will send a detailed letter. However, I
18 wanted to speak on two points.

19 Regarding relocating the proposed
20 parking from beneath the retail village to a
21 freestanding parking structure. The exact location
22 of the garage was not listed in the proposed GPP.
23 I want to make sure that in the final document that
24 is clearly stated and written so there's no changes
25 without community input.

1

2

3

4

It should not be placed on the residential side of the property. So please let us know the exact location.

5

6

7

8

Number two, the language of the public hearing states, install a landscaped wall, rather than a landscaped berm along the eastern perimeter.

9

10

11

12

13

As I attended the two community meetings with the residents and the developer that lives along the south lot, the wall was presented as a concrete structure with thick landscaping designs that included lots of trees.

14

15

16

17

18

With the reallocation of thousands of square feet of retail space from site A to site B, there needs to be a proper barrier between the residents and the residential village. It has to be concrete or solid wall, not opaque.

19

20

21

In addition, the wall proposed should be the entire length of the property on the residential side.

22

23

What is the length and composition of the wall?

24

25

The developer should also commit to providing security outside the wall, especially

1

2 on game days, shopping holidays such as Christmas
3 and during the Belmont Stakes.

4

Many community residents said that
5 a car or some type of security should come on the
6 outside.

7

Due, again to my limited time, I
8 will submit a very detailed letter with more
9 questions that I hope are answered before the
10 document is approved.

11

I thank you.

12

And I hope everyone has a good
13 night.

14

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
15 Assemblymember Solages.

16

And now our set of speakers will
17 be:

18

Brian Sigler;

19

Dan Krupa;

20

Judy Sanford Guise;

21

Lori Halop; and,

22

Andrew Bohnet.

23

As a reminder, you will be briefly
24 removed and then reinstated in the meeting to
25 enable you to share your video.

1

2

And with that our next speaker
will be Brian Sigler.

4

Please let us know when you're
ready.

6

7

Oh, I think we may not have gotten
Brian Sigler back after the break. And so we'll
actually move on to Dan Krupa.

9

10

11

12

Dan Krupa. We'll give you a
moment to get ready. Please unmute yourself when
you're asked to and let us know when you're ready
to begin.

13

14

MR. KRUPA: Okay. Can you hear

15

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

16

MR. KRUPA: Okay.

17

Thank you, Celeste.

18

19

20

21

As an over 20 year season ticket
holder for the Islanders, I'm ecstatic that they're
moving back to Nassau County, as well as my current
season ticket holders that I partner with.

22

23

24

25

I know a lot of people are worried
about traffic and I think the parking garage, which
I believe was stated to be along Hempstead Turnpike
is going to be important.

1

2

3

4

5

6

But I also believe the Long Island Railroad station will eliminate a lot of this automobile traffic as people who prefer to go to a game may not choose to drive due to alcohol and having fun and being safe.

7

8

9

10

11

So I think the amount of cars that will actually be driving will be less. And even for myself, I'm from New Hyde Park. We even talked about taking the train there ourselves so we don't have to worry about having alcohol and driving.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

As far as the berm wall, as the speaker, the Assemblywoman said, the main wall -- I live down the block from the Long Island Railroad and it's a solid wall that they're putting up with the expansion of the third rail and it looks a lot better than looking at the railroad tracks themselves.

19

20

21

22

So I think the wall is a good thing instead of the berm. You know, it allows the residents to have a little bit more privacy from other people walking in.

23

24

25

As far as the Islanders, they've always been very -- and I'm also a member of the New Hyde Park Fire Department and the Wounded

1

2 Warriors.

3

4 The Islanders have always been
5 good to the community and very good to our
6 organization, Nassau County Firefighters Operation,
7 Wounded Warriors, for which we help those who come
8 home from overseas injured, whether we help with
9 donating kitchen appliances for their modified
10 homes or just presents for their kids and such.

11

12 So I want to thank the Islanders
13 for their continued support of all non-profits, not
14 just ours.

15

16 I want to thank you for the
17 opportunity to speak here today.

18

19 And I want to wish everyone a
20 Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

21

22 Thank you very much.

23

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
25 for your comments.

26

27 Our next speaker will be Judy
28 Sanford Guise.

29

30 Please let us know when you're
31 ready.

32

33 MS. SANFORD-GUISE: I'm waiting
34 to be unmuted.

35

1

2

3

THE HEARING OFFICER: We can hear you.

4

5

6

7

8

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21

22

23

24

25

MS. SANFORD-GUISE: Good.

Because it said it didn't give me the right to.

Anyway, on the history of the

Islanders, my child, who's 51, lives in Atlanta.

Moved to Atlanta and brought my now 15-year old,

who when she was two months old, toddler, two

months old to an Islanders' game in Atlanta.

So we apparently have that kind of

a history. I'm neutral.

I'm more concerned about the discussion about the retail. I've lived out here

in North Valley Stream -- I live in North Valley

Stream now. I grew up in Valley Stream. And I

watched Green Acres be built in the mid '50s. I

watched it be the number one per capita, you know,

shopping area.

I am now watching it die as store

after store closes. And so I'm curious since this

whole project was first suggested a long time ago,

is -- if Green Acres is not -- if people are not

going to Green Acres to shop, why they should they

be coming to the Belmont area? A store is a store

1

2 is a store.

3

4 And if the people in Elmont need a
5 place to shop, there's plenty of parking spaces in
6 -- to shop at Green Acres.

6

7 I'm really confused about why
8 anyone thinks we need another shopping area while
9 we're watching a major area die.

9

10 The people from the five towns and
11 from Far Rockaway, they're not going to come up to
12 Elmont to shop. They come -- they come to Green
13 Acres. So I'm really very concerned about that.

13

14 I'm also wondering, when I heard
15 that the retail area and the parking now being on B
16 and the access to the parking lot being on
17 Hempstead Turnpike. What about those of us who
18 travel by bus? Do we get to walk through an entire
19 parking lot in order to get into a retail space
20 area that we may or may not need?

20

21 Or is our business just not really
22 the object?

22

23 So I am concerned about that and
24 I'd like to hear other people speaking about that
25 and I will, you know, as I said, it just doesn't
26 seem to make any sense. Why would people go to

1

2 shop in Elmont when they're not going to shop in
3 Valley Stream.

4

And we also, by the way, and I
5 think Assemblymember Solages was referring to it,
6 we have plenty of small stores that need help in
7 North Valley Stream, all over Elmont and in Valley
8 Stream. It's not just up on the turnpike.

9

So anyway, thank you.

10

And, you know, my son I think will
11 be happy, although I must say he observed
12 personally, I mean, not by going to it was that at
13 Barclay, it wasn't the -- a lot of people weren't
14 really from Long Island were apparently not going
15 to frequent the Barclays Center, restaurants, et
16 cetera.

17

I also strangely enough knew a
18 bartender in a place outside of -- two blocks from
19 Madison Square Garden who --

20

THE HEARING OFFICER: My

21 apologies. Your time was up a few minutes -- a few
22 seconds ago and I was looking for an opportunity to
23 let you know.

24

Apologies for cutting you off. If
25 you'd like to finish and if there's time we'll give

1

2 you another chance.

3

4 Krupa.

5

6 reminder announcement.

7

8 One will be that just a reminder
9 that each person does have three minutes to give
10 their comments. There is a time clock that starts
11 down once you start.

12

13 I'll also try to give you a
14 warning but I don't want to interrupt people if I'm
15 not able to.

16

17 Oh, yes. Apologies. Dan Krupa
18 already spoke.

19

20 We're on to Lori Halop next.

21

22 But before we do then the final
23 thing I'll say is, we do believe that we will have
24 time for folks who spoke who didn't finish or have
25 something more that they'd like to add to their
26 comments, you can raise your hand and we'll add you
27 to the list again because we -- it is almost 8:00
28 now. This hearing will conclude at 9:00 p.m. And
29 people can sign up to speak until 8:30.

30

31 And so we do believe we'll have

1

2 time for additional speakers or for speakers have
3 -- who have already spoken and would like to speak
4 again.

5

And so with that, our next speaker
6 will be Lori Halop.

7

Thank you for your patience.

8

And let us know when you're ready
9 to speak.

10

MS. HALOP: Can you hear me?

11

THE HEARING OFFICER: No, we can
12 hear you.

13

(No response.)

14

THE HEARING OFFICER: No, now
15 you're muted again.

16

MS. HALOP: How about now?

17

THE HEARING OFFICER: Perfect.
18 You can begin when you're ready.

19

MS. HALOP: I wasn't really
20 planning on speaking but I just wanted to add that
21 first of all, I don't look at this -- to raise my
22 admiration for the Islanders kind of experience.

23

My concern, I'm an Elmont
24 resident. I've always been an Elmont resident for
25 3,000 years. My concern is the community. My

1

2 concern is how this is really going to affect the
3 people living in this community. I still haven't
4 seen anything how this is going to help our local
5 businesses. If you're going to put in restaurants
6 and retail and everything over in that area,
7 there's no reason to have it anywhere else in the
8 community. People won't go into our community.

9

I'm concerned about the traffic
10 still. The parking garage, very nice. We all know
11 it's not going to hold enough people. They're
12 still going to go onto the streets.

13

I'm concerned about the security.
14 A parking garage is not a secure facility or
15 building.

16

My concern is what's going to
17 happen when there aren't Islanders games going on?
18 What are the other things that are planned?

19

This is getting closer and closer
20 and closer to be finished from what I see when I
21 drive by. I've never seen anything go up so fast
22 in my life. What else is going to be happening
23 over there?

24

This community needs to know.
25 Because the people involved, the owners, the

1
2 operators, everyone needs to do more outreach to
3 the community, to the civic associations, to the
4 residents to let us know what is going to be
5 happening there. Because I got news for you, we
6 don't know. A few people know. A few people are
7 told. A few people maybe get an Islanders
8 newsletter. We don't get that. So there needs to
9 be more outreach and more communication between the
10 owners and people at Empire State Development and
11 this community.

12 We have been railroaded. We have
13 been shoved aside. We -- people have been picked
14 to be on the advisory committees who are -- there
15 needs to be more conversation because this is our
16 lives. This is our homes. This is our children
17 been raised in these areas and this is just not
18 going well.

19 So thank you for your time.

20 I wish you all a happy holiday, a
21 great new year. I'd love to see this thing become
22 more positive and I'd like to see great things for
23 my town and my community.

24 Thank you.

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you

1

2 for comments.

3

Next speaker will be Andrew

4

Bohnet.

5

Andrew Bohnet, we'll give you a

6

moment to get ready.

7

(No response.)

8

THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, I think

9

I'm getting the message that Andrew Bohnet has not

10

rejoined us.

11

So we're going to move on to the

12

next list of speakers.

13

Excuse me. Our next five speakers

14

will include:

15

Boris Segovia;

16

Dean Lykos;

17

Simmonie Swaby;

18

Alana Lindsay; and,

19

Claudia Gray.

20

So first will be Boris Segovia.

21

(No response.)

22

THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, no. I

23

think we don't have a Boris Segovia after all.

24

So then our next, we'll go on to

25

Dean Lykos.

1

2

3

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Dean Lykos, let us know when you're ready to give your comments.

MR. LYKOS: Hello.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yep. We can hear you. You can start when you're ready.

MR. LYKOS: Okay.

Thank you for having me participate this evening.

My name is Dean Lykos. I own City Line Florist in New Hyde Park, New York.

We've been fortunate enough to be one of the vendors for the New York Islanders for many years. They're a very important part of our business and the things they do for the community and other people and the gifts and things that they send to everyone, including the team and the members of the community.

Them being close to us in Elmont is very, very important to us because it helps us maintain the business that we need without the added expenses that we would incur like when they were at the Barclays Center, which we would have to have another driver in that day. We'd have the second van to make deliveries to the Barclays

1

2 Center on game day where they do have arrangements
3 for the family rooms.

4 So it is very, very important to
5 us that the Islanders are in our community and it
6 makes it feasible for us to keep them as clients
7 and be one of their vendors. And overall, all the
8 people that we deal with in the organization
9 themselves, they're all top, class -- top notch
10 people of great character and they're a pleasure to
11 do business with and they're always looking out for
12 everyone in the community.

13 So, again, it's my pleasure to be
14 partners this evening and to speak on behalf of the
15 Islanders and how important the arena being in
16 Elmont is for us as a small business.

17 And I thank you very much.

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
19 for your comments.

20 Our next speaker will be Simmonie
21 Swaby.

22 Simmonie Swaby when you're ready,
23 let us know.

24 MS. SWABY: Hello. My name is
25 simmonie Swaby.

1

2

Thanks for hosting this meeting

3

tonight.

4

I serve on the CAC and I've been

5

listening and paying very close attention and I

6

just want to highlight a few of the concerns I've

7

heard thus far from -- from my community of Elmont.

8

I'm hearing residents talk about

9

more outreach. I'm also hearing a call for more

10

transparency.

11

I really liked the -- idea of a

12

community newsletter. Sometimes I try to have

13

conversations concerning the project but people

14

just don't have a -- a clue in terms of -- not

15

necessarily a clue but they are just not well

16

informed on the project, its benefit and possibly

17

negative points that they may or may not surmise.

18

I also hear a call for more jobs,

19

a focus on jobs that will be highlighted for this

20

community. And I also heard a lot about parks and

21

the focus on the community center.

22

So as I prepared to -- prepare

23

myself for the next slew of meetings, I personally

24

will make it my job to focus on the community's

25

concerns and find a way to impress on the board how

1

2 important it is to really focus in on these
3 particular points so that we have a partnership.
4 We can build a partnership that's long lasting
5 where all parties feel like they are being
6 positively impacted and getting good results from
7 this project.

8

Thank you.

9

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
10 Ms. Swaby, for your comments.

11

Our next speaker will be Alana

12

Lindsay.

13

Alana Lindsay, let us know when
14 you are ready to begin.

15

MS. LINDSAY: Hello. Can you
16 hear me now?

17

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, we can.
18 You can start whenever you're ready.

19

MS. LINDSAY: Okay. So my only
20 comment on this is that there should be more of,
21 you know, a better site plan put down just because
22 there's not a lot of bike and pedestrian byways. I
23 don't really see a lot of that.

24

A lot of the focus here is on cars
25 and I know that Nassau County is, you know, it's a

1

2 suburb. I live in Elmont and it's big on cars but
3 we need on cars but we need to just get past that
4 and just do a better job of making sure that there
5 are pedestrian walkways all over the place, as well
6 as a lot of -- in conjunction along with the
7 roadways, there's bike parking, there's bicycle
8 lanes. That should just be more clear on this
9 plan.

10

And that's it.

11

Thank you.

12

THE HEARING OFFICER: Great.

13

Thank you for your comments.

14

Our next speaker will be Claudia

15

Gray.

16

Claudia Gray let us know when

17

you're ready to begin.

18

MS. GRAY: Can you hear me?

19

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, we can.

20

You can start when you're ready.

21

MS. GRAY: Thank you and good

22

night from Queens Village.

23

Seasons greetings and Merry

24

Christmas.

25

My name is Claudia Gray, a

1

2 resident of Queens Village, founder of Speaking
3 into Action, Inc. and a member of the Queens
4 Village Civic Association.

5

6 In 2020, COVID-19 has been
7 devastating to New York, especially to Queens. We
8 now need to reimagine Queens Village in the next
9 normal.

9

10 Some concerns from Queens Village
11 residents are:

11

12 The LIRR needs to stop at the
13 Queens Village Station, especially during rush
14 hours.

14

15 Executive jobs with six figure
16 salary should be sourced to Queens Village
17 residents.

17

18 Job training opportunities for
19 Queens residents, especially due to the impact of
20 COVID-19.

20

21 Internship opportunities for
22 students from Queens Village; and,

22

23 A partnership with York College.

23

24 Opportunities for children with
25 disabilities; and,

24

25 Lastly, let me say, we Speak Into

1

2 Action to reimagine our community.

3

Wishing you the best of 2021.

4

Thank you.

5

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you

6

for your comments.

7

So we have completed this -- that

8

set of speakers. We have a few -- we have

9

additional speakers who have raised their hands and

10

have added recently.

11

So our next speaker will be David

12

Steinberg.

13

David Steinberg, let us know when

14

you're ready to begin.

15

(No response.)

16

MR. STEINBERG: Good evening.

17

First, I would like to thank the

18

board for allowing me the opportunity to speak

19

tonight.

20

My name is Aallyah Steinberg and

21

I'm a third generation Islanders' fan. My

22

grandparents witnessed John Tonelli produce a

23

perfect pass to Bobby Nystrom to secure the

24

franchise's first Stanley Cup at Nassau Coliseum.

25

When three more consecutive cups

1

2 followed, my family's devotion to the Islanders was
3 solidified. Years later at age six, my grandfather
4 and father took me to see my first game. As we
5 pulled into the parking lot, people were laughing
6 and cheering at their tailgating parties. Sparky
7 was greeting every single fan possible and horns
8 sang the chant, let's go Islanders.

9 The atmosphere was electric before
10 the puck even dropped. I was overcome with this
11 irreplaceable sense of unity and pride, which I had
12 never experienced before. Evidently that game
13 wasn't my last and I can testify that those
14 feelings do not disappear, regardless of how many
15 games you attend.

16 When the Islanders moved to
17 Barclays Center in 2015, I must admit my favorite
18 team felt distant, especially when Islanders games
19 began to decrease. I remember when the Islanders
20 announced the construction of UBS Arena. As a fan,
21 I experienced mixed emotions. Leaving the Coliseum
22 was a difficult reality to stomach but UBS was a
23 fresh start and I found that exhilarating.

24 UBS is the Islanders' arena.
25 This place will become the new center of unity and

1

2 pride for fans both old and new. It will bring a
3 new population of people to Elmont, whether they
4 come to witness a game, concert or other event.

5

The New York Islanders already
6 possess a strong sense of community. They hold
7 blood drives, toy drives, fan parties and conduct
8 programs that encourage kids to exercise and have
9 fun.

10

The organization makes every
11 effort to connect to its fan base. If as a
12 community we decide to embrace UBS, those feelings
13 of unity and pride will follow. Change can be
14 terrifying.

15

But if this past year has taught
16 us anything, it's that we must embrace and adapt to
17 change. UBS represents a fresh start and in the
18 upcoming year that's all everybody needs.

19

It's rare that a franchise gets to
20 experience such a large transition. And this
21 community has been presented with the chance to be
22 a part of it. This has been an exhausting year
23 full of negatives and bad news and it was
24 incredibly easy to develop a pessimistic complex.
25 But as we begin to heal, it is time to focus on

1

2 every positive possible.

3

UBS can be this community's hope.

4

It has the potential to bring a sense of light

5

year. However, in order for this arena to maximize

6

its possibilities, it must be embraced and it

7

requires this community's support.

8

I have hope for UBS and I trust

9

that the New York Islanders organization has

10

everyone's best interests in mind.

11

I look to the future of this

12

franchise and I am willing to embrace a new start.

13

I ask that you are able to do the same with our

14

community. May we all be able to experience unity

15

and pride in the future.

16

I wish everyone a safe, happy and

17

healthy new year.

18

Thank you so much for your time

19

and consideration.

20

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you

21

for your comments.

22

And our next speaker will be

23

Virginia.

24

Virginia, let us know when you're

25

ready to begin.

1

2

VIRGINIA: Hi.

3

THE HEARING OFFICER: Hi.

4

VIRGINIA: Am I there?

5

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, you're

6

there. You can start when you're ready.

7

VIRGINIA: Okay. Well, I'm

8

listening to all the Islanders fans talking about

9

their tailgating and the parking garage.

10

First of all, the parking over

11

there is not safe. Ten years ago I worked there

12

part time. Ten years ago our people were

13

approached by -- a well dressed man in the parking

14

lot. Now you're going to put up structures that

15

are going to hide people approaching people.

16

And as far as their tailgating

17

parties go, that's not supposed to be happening

18

even though the Islanders pages say they're going

19

to do it anyway and they don't care how many fines

20

you give them.

21

Okay. So they need to understand.

22

They are not tailgating and doing their Islanders

23

honk over here because we don't want to hear it.

24

Okay.

25

And then jobs, they're not going

1

2 to be jobs. We heard Ledecky on the news saying
3 that this thing is so state of the art that there's
4 not going to be people serving you your food.
5 You're going to order on an app and the machine's
6 going to hand it to you. So what jobs? And those
7 are minimum wage jobs anyway. We don't need
8 minimum wage jobs.

9 And as far as Ledecky helping the
10 community, he's coming into Elmont. Okay. There's
11 plenty of empty space along Elmont -- Hempstead
12 Turnpike across the street from where he built the
13 arena. How come he didn't take up that office
14 space, put someone in there and hire from Elmont.

15 I went to a Floral Park meeting.
16 He's got all his businesses over in Floral Park and
17 hired in the local paper, a Floral Park person. So
18 how's that helping the Elmont community? We really
19 feel like we're being kicked to the dirt again,
20 yet again. So he's not helping us.

21 And community space. Who said we
22 needed community space in this new thing? Because
23 we all talked about it and we said we already have
24 that at the library. We don't need another
25 community space. We already have meeting spaces.

1

2

3

4

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23

24

25

Okay. And as far as everyone talking about the parking lot being storage for cars. So are all the mall parking lots. Take a look at Green Acres. All cars. Take a look at Roosevelt Field. All cars being stored there.

Take a look at the old Fortunoffs. All cars are being stored there. That's what's happening to all the malls. They're storing all the cars there now.

So they're going to store them somewhere. So I don't want to hear about that nonsense again.

And as far as -- they weren't supposed to interfere with any of the stuff going on at Belmont. Well, they had their third ground breaking ceremony on the day of the Jockey Gold Cup, which is a big day at Belmont. Guess what? We didn't have our people -- we had no business that day because they had all their Islanders people taking up all the space there and nobody could get in. So they interfered with Belmont and they're going to continue interfering with Belmont.

And as far as saying only one day a year that those parking lots are utilized, first

1

2 of all, they're utilized on Father's Day. Father's
3 Day is a huge day there. Huge. It's bigger than
4 Belmont Stakes Day.

5

So don't say it's only one day a
6 year because you don't go there so you don't know.

7

I worked there. I never knew
8 until I worked there. So I'm tired of hearing
9 people say it was not utilized. It was utilized.

10

THE HEARING OFFICER: You have ten
11 seconds left.

12

VIRGINIA: That's fine. That's
13 all I have to say.

14

But they are going to have to wait
15 a long time to get out of that parking garage.
16 They're not going to use that parking garage. I
17 know I don't like to wait to get out anywhere.

18

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

19

Thank you for your comments.

20

And I believe -- I'm just checking
21 our list to see. I believe our next speaker will
22 be Natasha Appleby.

23

You'll be shifted out and back
24 into the meeting and let us know when you're ready
25 to speak.

1

2

MS. APPLEBY: Hi, good evening.

3

This is Ms. Appleby. How are you?

4

THE HEARING OFFICER: Good.

5

Thank you.

6

MS. APPLEBY: Good evening,

7

everyone.

8

My name is Natasha Appleby here.

9

Again, an Elmont resident, specifically located

10

close to the retail space, also the PTA president

11

for the Gotham Avenue School, which is the closest

12

school to the project.

13

I certainly came to this project

14

hearing the information with some hesitance. I

15

have to say over the last year ESD, as well as the

16

Islanders has done significant reach out. The

17

information is there.

18

I would also like to put it on

19

some of residents and my families around me to be

20

aware. I think Ms. Lawes is around these blocks

21

every other day and folks know who she is, or

22

should know who she is if information is needed.

23

I applaud the team, the

24

construction so far has been not interruptive at

25

all. We had a couple of meetings over the last two

1

2 to three weeks as well to get input from residents
3 specifically on the retail space, the parking
4 structure, as well as the landscaping. And I
5 applaud again the team for allowing us to provide
6 feedback into what gets constructed close to our
7 property and how we are impacted by that.

8 So my message is, you know, there
9 are all these positives and negatives. The team
10 has been doing a significant job as far as reach
11 out. But communication does go both ways in the
12 scheme of things and I encourage residents as we do
13 today and as everyone speaks out today to please
14 continue doing so.

15 If you're not sure, please reach
16 out to someone that has the appropriate information
17 that can get that information to you. You know, we
18 had the windows and the lights that were offered
19 and we had residents that stepped up and said, we
20 didn't know about it. You know, how do I get this.
21 You know, my neighbor right next door to me said to
22 me, I don't know how to get this information.

23 I'm thankful, you know, that you
24 connected me to XY&Z person. So to the extent that
25 you do have information, I encourage residents to

1

2 share as well and not keep information in a silo.

3

And, you know, I look forward.

4

Nobody knows what's to be. I understand folks

5

concern. I have the same concern with the retail

6

space in a post COVID environment. But we would

7

have to place some trust in you guys that you will

8

have an open forum to discuss what is to come,

9

considering, you know, these changes in, you know,

10

economic status and the like. And, you know, we

11

look forward to engaging in those conversations.

12

I appreciate everyone's time.

13

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you

14

for your comments.

15

And I believe our next speaker

16

will be Simmonie Swaby.

17

Simmonie Swaby, please let us know

18

when you are ready to begin.

19

MS. SWABY: Yes, hello. Good

20

afternoon again.

21

THE HEARING OFFICER: Hi.

22

MS. SWABY: I forgot -- yes, hi.

23

I forgot to touch on one point. I do believe in my

24

heart that this could be a rewarding acquisition

25

for our community. I -- I have heard many

1

2 sentiments from local community members on the
3 project. But I feel, I really do believe that the
4 organization of the Islanders, based on how I've
5 seen them operate in other communities, will hold
6 up their end of the bargain in terms of treating
7 the community with respect and generally trying to
8 promote a relationship that -- that works for both
9 sides.

10

I do want to call into -- I heard
11 one of the supporters of the Islanders, one of the
12 fans mention that, you know, something along the
13 lines of the community being blighted. I heard
14 that term blighted. I think we may want to revisit
15 our lexicon as we try to build new relationships
16 with the new arena in this community.

17

I think, you know, the
18 organization has a very big opportunity here to,
19 you know, promote more diversity within the -- the
20 area of -- of just hockey on a whole. I think we
21 have an opportunity here to increase the fan base
22 for hockey in Elmont, make it more inclusive
23 somehow. And I think there are opportunities to do
24 that. But as you look to come to Elmont and enjoy
25 yourself, I would hope that the -- the notion of

1

2 Elmont or any surrounding area be blighted would be
3 something that would be eliminated from anyone's
4 lexicon.

5

6 But thank you for this forum. It
7 was very, very, very interesting. And as always, I
8 look forward to serving this community in any way
9 that I can.

10

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
12 for those comments.

13

14 And so we now have. We have a
15 short list of speakers who have registered and
16 signed up to speak in advance. Before we reach the
17 deadline for new speakers to sign up, I'm -- I'd
18 like to read those names out and if any of the
19 people whose names I read are on the call and you'd
20 still like to speak, please -- please raise your
21 hand at this time and we will -- we'll call on you
22 to speak.

23

24 So the names of speakers who have
25 registered and were not present at that time are?

26

Matthew Hynes;

27

Susan Ganz;

28

Brian Sigler;

29

Andrew Bohnet; and,

1

2

Boris Segovia.

3

4

5

I believe at least one of those speakers was present but wasn't able to unmute themselves.

6

(Off the record.)

7

8

9

10

11

12

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. We have a speaker who's asked to speak, whose number begins with 516 and ends with 411. If you have that cell phone number and you raised your hand to speak, we'll be bringing you in to speak at this point.

13

Let us know when you're ready.

14

MR. SIGLER: Can you hear me?

15

16

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. You can go ahead when you're ready.

17

MR. SIGLER: Thank you very much.

18

19

20

I'm Brian Sigler. I'm a resident of Jericho, New York, born and grown up on Long Island.

21

22

23

24

25

So even though I can start this by saying I'm actually -- I grew up as a Ranger fan, the Islanders have become a very big part of my life. I have five children, three of them currently playing hockey, almost all of them out of

1

2 Northwell. So I've gotten to know a lot of the
3 staff with the New York Islanders, the players and
4 especially on the community involvement side of not
5 only the players but the organization.

6 And the arena at Belmont and what
7 they're planning to do I think is going to add
8 amazing value to not only the community and the
9 children but to everyone involved in Long Island.
10 You know, the business aspects, obviously the
11 financial bloom that will local communities will
12 receive. It's an incredible thing and to watch the
13 kids' reactions each day as we drive past on the
14 Cross Island Parkway and we see the arena as it's
15 being built, it's more than just stadium.

16 Again, as I said, knowing the
17 Islanders and knowing the players and the new
18 owners, I know how much they want to do for the
19 community. It's not just building value, it's
20 building a foundation to be here for a long time
21 and it's exciting to see what's in store.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
23 very much for your comments.

24 So at this time, we -- we do not
25 have any other speakers signed up to speak at this

1
2 point. And so we will take a brief pause in the
3 meeting, if anyone else joins the meeting and they
4 would like to speak, they will have the
5 opportunity. So we will keep the webinar open but
6 we're going to pause in our -- our sharing of the
7 video and then in calling speakers until -- at this
8 point, it's now 8:30. We'll check back in at 8:45.
9 But as the Hearing Officer, I of course will be
10 here the whole time. I may turn off my camera for
11 a bit.

12 So we will at this time take a
13 brief pause until 8:45 unless we have others who
14 ask to speak in the meantime.

15 Thank you very much.

16 (At 8:30 p.m., the hearing was
17 temporarily recessed.)

18 (At 8:45 p.m., the hearing
19 resumed.)

20 THE HEARING OFFICER: So Magaly
21 Polo has asked to speak. So Magaly Polo, we will
22 wait for you to be brought back in.

23 MS. POLO: Thank you.

24 Magaly Polo.

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: My

1

2 apologies.

3

MS. POLO: Not a problem. I am just concerned about the increase in traffic that Elmont will see as a result of the development.

6

It is great to have the attraction so that people are able to have events to go to that's close by. But at the same time, we need to ensure the safety of the residents, including myself is considered.

11

Is there a plan to have policing in the area at the times that special events are taking place, where we're going to have large crowds?

15

THE HEARING OFFICER: So that question will be entered as testimony. We don't have anyone who is answering questions. This isn't a question and answer session. But that will be entered and will be responded to when ESD responds to all of the comments and testimony that we'll receive.

22

Okay.

23

Thank you for your comments.

24

So now we'll go back on a brief break but we'll still be here. If anyone raises

25

1

2 their hand and we'll check back in in a few
3 moments.

4

(Brief recess.)

5

THE HEARING OFFICER: Hello

6

attendees.

7

And welcome back to the public

8

hearing for the modification to the Modified

9

General Project Plan for the Belmont Park

10

Redevelopment.

11

We have been on pause since -- for

12

about the last ten minutes because we didn't have

13

additional speakers signed up. So I wanted to come

14

back and state that it's 8:45 p.m. This hearing

15

will end at 9:00 p.m.

16

If there's anyone who has joined

17

recently or has been on who would like to speak,

18

please use the raise hand function on Zoom or dial

19

star 9 on your phone.

20

Okay.

21

We have one more person. We have

22

one person who has raised their hand to speak. But

23

I think two times is the total number that is

24

generally allowed. So we're going to hold off on

25

that just a moment.

1

2

3

4

5

So we're just getting some advice on the number of times. I think we can let speakers speak again even if they have already spoken once or twice.

6

7

So the first I saw to raise their hand was Virginia.

8

And then Judy Sanford Guise.

9

10

So Virginia, if you'd like to speak.

11

12

13

VIRGINIA: Yeah, I just want to state something quick. I mean, you did interrupt me the two other times that I spoke anyway.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

But one thing I want to say is, I thought this was terrible that you had meeting right before a holiday. People are busy with the holidays and you have a meeting. And you've done this before. You did this last year too. You had a meeting on the holidays. And that's not fair to people. Of course, you're going to have low attendance and that's all I want to say.

22

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

23

24

Thank you very much for your comments.

25

And I believe we have one more

1

2 person who wants to speak, Judy Sanford Guise.

3

4 Please let us know when you're
ready.

5

6 MS. SANFORD GUISE: I just wanted
to come back on to congratulate you and thank you
7 for the wonderful way you have managed this
evening. It's been a pleasure to watch and I've
8 been on a lot of Zoom meetings.
9

10

And also I wanted to apologize for
11 having gone over. But I wanted to commend you on
12 how your leadership and coordination.

13

Be well. Peace and shalom.

14

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
so much.

16

That's very kind of you.

17

We have a great team.

18

(Off the record.)

19

20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. I
believe at this time as we do not have any
21 additional people who have asked to speak, we will
22 go on pause again and we'll check back in just
23 before the hearing closes at 9:00 o'clock P.M.

24

25 Thank you all if you've stuck with
us until now, thank you so much for attending this

1

2 evening's hearing and happy holidays to everyone.

3

4 And we will go briefly on pause
5 but we're still here but please raise your hand if
6 you would like to speak.

6

7 And the hearing will conclude in
8 ten minutes at 9:00 o'clock P.M.

8

9 (At 8:50 p.m., the hearing was
10 temporarily recessed.)

10

11 (At 9:00 p.m., the hearing was
12 resumed.)

12

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: For the
14 record, I will state that we paused about ten
15 minutes ago because we didn't have any additional
16 speakers registered to speak. And we have not had
17 any new speakers register to speak since that time.

17

18 So as there are no speakers
19 registered to provide comments at the present time,
20 we will close the meeting at 9:00 o'clock P.M.

20

21 Thank you again for joining us
22 tonight for the public hearing for the modification
23 to the Modified General Project Plan for the
24 Belmont Park Redevelopment and Civic and Land Use
25 Improvement project.

25

Please note that you may submit

1

2 any additional comments on the proposed
3 modification of the Modified General Project Plan
4 for the Belmont Park Redevelopment Civic and Land
5 Use Improvement project to the address on the
6 screen.

7

They may be sent to
8 Belmontoutreach@esd.ny.gov or you can mail comments
9 to Stacy Teran at Empire State Development, 636
10 Third Avenue, 37th Floor, New York, New York
11 10017.

12

It's also available on your screen
13 and on ESD's website. And all of this information
14 is available on ESD's website.

15

And comments will be accepted by
16 these means until 5:00 p.m. on January 20th, 2021.

17

All verbal comments made at this
18 hearing and all written comments received by ESD
19 prior to 5:00 p.m. on January 20th, 2021, will be
20 addressed by ESD prior to final consideration of
21 the proposed modification.

22

Thank you all for your comments.

23

The time is now 9:01 p.m.

24

Before we adjourn for the evening,
25 is there anyone else here who would like to make a

1

2 statement regarding the proposed project?

3

4 We have had one person raise their
5 hand, Magaly Polo.

6

7 Magaly Polo, if you'll just get
8 ready, we'll bring you up to speak.

9

10 MS. POLO: Thank you for this
11 opportunity.

12

13 I just wanted to find out what
14 would be the next step after this hearing?

15

16 THE HEARING OFFICER: That is an
17 excellent question and it will be submitted as a
18 comment as part of the record for this hearing and
19 ESD will certainly address that in their -- the
20 comments that they make.

21

22 I believe you should also be able
23 to see more information about the time line on
24 ESD's website for the Belmont Park Redevelopment
25 Project.

26

27 Before we adjourn for the evening,
28 is there anyone else here who would like to make a
29 statement regarding the proposed project?

30

31 (No response.)

32

33 THE HEARING OFFICER: Let the
34 record reflect that no one has answered in the

35

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affirmative.

I want to reiterate the comments on the proposed project can be made and submitted until 5:00 p.m. on January 20th, 2021. And instructions for submitting written comments are on the screen in front of you.

The time is 9:03 p.m. and this hearing is now concluded.

Thank you all again for attending this evening.

And good night and happy holidays.

(At 9:03 p.m., the proceedings were concluded.)

STATE OF NEW YORK)

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SS.
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

I, MARC RUSSO, a Shorthand
(Stenotype) Reporter and Notary Public within and
for the State of New York, do hereby certify that
the foregoing pages 1 through 128, taken at the
time and place aforesaid, is a true and correct
transcription of my shorthand notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my name this 26th day of December,
2020.



MARC RUSSO

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