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

December 21, 2020
6:05 P.M.

BEFORE:

CELESTE FRYE,
The Hearing Officer

MGR REPORTING, INC.,
1-844-MGR-RPTG
APPEARANCES:

FOR ESD:
Doug McPherson
Other Project Participants

ALSO PRESENT:
Marc Russo, Stenographer
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PROCEEDINGS

THE HEARING OFFICER: Good evening everyone and welcome to the public hearing. We're just giving a few minutes for attendees to join the webinar.

Thank you for joining us.

(Off the record.)

THE HEARING OFFICER: Good evening everyone and welcome to the public hearing for the modification to the Modified General Project Plan, or MGPP for the Belmont Park Redevelopment Civic and Land Use Improvement Project.

My name is Celeste Frye and I've been asked by Empire State Development to conduct a public hearing on the proposed modifications, pursuant to Sections 6 and 16 of the New York State Urban -- excuse me, Urban Development Corporation Act, and to the legal notice published in the November 20th, 2020 edition of Newsday.

The purpose of this hearing is to afford the public an opportunity to make statements and comments about ESD's proposed MGPP for the Belmont Park Redevelopment Project.

For your information and
convenience, copies of the proposed modification are available on the ESD website, which can be found on the slide on your screen now.

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

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

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

The Town of Hempstead Supervisor;
The Nassau County Executive;
The presiding officer of the Nassau County Legislature;
The Chair of the Nassau County Planning Commission; and,
The Town of Hempstead Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development.

My purpose is to run this hearing in a fair and impartial manner and to try to ensure that everyone who wishes to speak has adequate
opportunity to be heard.

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

Please note that this meeting is being recorded and a stenographic transcript will also be produced. A link to the full recording of this meeting will be made available on ESD's website at: ESD.ny.gov/belmont-park-redevelopment-project.

That website is also on your screen.

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

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

Exhibit 2, the proposed modification to the Modified General Project Plan.
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
in the allotted time, he or she may be given an
opportunity to continue once all speakers have been
given the opportunity to speak and if time allows.

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

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

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

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

If you are joining by phone only,
you may press star 9 on your phone to indicate your
desire to provide verbal testimony. Participants
using the raise hand function or star nine, will be added to the end of the speaker list. Speakers will be identified by their name or the first and last three digits of their phone number.

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

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

Again, these instructions will appear periodically throughout the meeting.

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

MR. MC PHERSON: Thank you, Celeste.

And good evening.

Empire State Development is proposing a modification to the 2019 Modified General Project Plan for the Belmont Park Redevelopment Civic and Land Use Improvement Project.
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
renovations of two nearby community parks and the first new Long Island Railroad train station in over 40 years.

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

The proposed modification would alter the project as follows:

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

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

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

Third, it would update the site B site plan by replacing an eight-foot berm with a ten-foot wall, that together with plantings and other landscaping will serve as a visual and physical buffer between site B and nearby Elmont
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.
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
consultation with Belmont residents, elected
officials and the project developers.

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

Thank you all for your time.

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

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
Doug.

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

If you did not sign up to speak
prior to the start of the meeting, but would like
to speak, please identify yourself using the raise
hand function on Zoom. Instructions for this are shown on your screen right now and will be shown periodically during the meeting.

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

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

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

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

Elected officials and representatives of government agencies will be provided the courtesy of speaking first. Periodically you will see a list of the next five speakers on your screen so you can prepare for your turn to speak. When your name or the first and last three digits of phone number is called, you will be temporarily removed from the webinar and then rejoined again so that you will have the option to share your video when you speak. Once you're back on, you'll be prompted to unmute yourself and we'll make sure you are ready before starting the time clock.

You can scroll or swipe to see the time clock on your screen to remind you of the length of time left for your testimony. I will also notify you verbally when you have about 15 seconds remaining.

When three minutes have passed, you will be temporarily removed from the meeting again and then will be rejoined as an attendee again to enable the next speaker to share their video. And you'll then be invited to send in your
remaining comments to ESD's mailing or e-mail address.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SENATOR KAPLAN: Good evening.

Anna Kaplan, New York State Senator for District 7.

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

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

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

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

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

So at this time we are showing the

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list of the next five speakers.

The first speaker will be:
L. Hookum;
L. Hookum, let us know what you're ready.

MR. HOOKUM: Hello. Can you hear me?

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

MR. HOOKUM: Okay.

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

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

Thank you.

Could you say that person's name one more time, please.
THE HEARING OFFICER: No. Okay.
All right.
Thank you for your comments.
So I'm going to leave the list of
the remaining four of our first five speakers so
that you'll have time to prepare.
The next speakers will be:
Alexis Greaves;
Virginia;
Donald Rosner;
Matthew Hynes.
If your name is on that list, when
the time comes, remember that you will be
temporarily removed and then added back to the
meeting so that you will be able to share your
screen -- I'm sorry. Turn on your video and be
seen when you give your comments.
So the next speaker will be Alexis
Greaves. We'll give you a moment to get ready.
MS. GREAVES: So now you can see
me.
How are you doing today?
THE HEARING OFFICER: Good.
Thank you.

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

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?

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?

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.

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.

And that's it.

Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
for your comments.

So our next speaker will be Virginia.

And Virginia, we'll give you a moment to get ready.

VIRGINIA:  Hello.

THE HEARING OFFICER:  Hi.  We can hear you.

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.

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.
So we were lied to about that.
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
know their names. I don't know who's on it.

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

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

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

THE HEARING OFFICER: You have 15 seconds.

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.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

VIRGINIA: And I don't like the project you're making.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments.

Your three minutes are up at this point.

So thank you.

We'll go on to the next speaker.

Our next speaker will be Donald Rosner.
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...
the community. And one of the big -- one of the best things about this project and about the parking structure is, it will keep people from parking off the side streets and it will help people have a place to park instead of scattering all over the place trying to find a place to park and, you know, I just think that that's very important.

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

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

You know, building this arena is so important to fans like us. And there's a lot of us. And we're so grateful for that because there were talks that they were possibly moving away.
So I mean as a fan, I'm super excited about this and, you know, that's about it. 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.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments.

Our next speaker will be Matthew Hynes.

Matthew Hynes. Is Matthew Hynes is on the Zoom, could you please raise your hand. Use the raise hand function.

(No response.)

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. We're going to move on to the next speaker now. 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.

Okay. Our next five speakers will be:
Sue August;
Rachelle Lewis;
Erika Klein;
Syd Mandelbaum; and,
Evan Babb.

Out of that group, Sue August will be first.

I will remind you all that you will be removed and then put back into the meeting so that you can share your video.

MS. AUGUST:  Hello.

THE HEARING OFFICER:  Hi. We can hear you.

MS. AUGUST:  How are you?

I already submitted my comments already but I'd like to just try to -- to emphasize how Elmont residents need to be a priority in terms of access to transportation.

And I know there's a new railroad station. However, it should be -- the one that is there should be accessed by Elmont residents 24/7, just like any other railroad station. I know it's an offshoot and all that but there's enough ways to get odd hour trains it has to be.
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.
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
skipped someone.

Rachelle Lewis.

Please excuse me.

So our next speaker will actually be Rachelle Lewis.

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

Let us know when you're ready to speak.

MS. LEWIS: Can you hear me?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

Thank you.

You can go ahead.

MS. LEWIS: Thank you.

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

First and foremost, based off of the discussion with the panel with Newsday during the summer, there was a concern that it was stated that displaced workers from the Nassau Coliseum would get first dibs at the jobs that will be
coming up at the arena. So we do want to clarify that point. We would like that to be explained further or just to be clarified.

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

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

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

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

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.

And I thank you for your time.

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

So now our next speaker will be Erika Klein.

Erika Klein, thank you for your patience.

If you're there, you'll be rejoined to share your video.

MS. KLEIN: Hi.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Hello.

Thanks for joining us.

You can start when you're ready.

MS. KLEIN: All right.

Hi. My name is Erika Klein. I'm
a Long Island resident.

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

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

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

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

Over the summer, I took part in a program called Mentoring Matchup. And it was run by the Islanders own Tania Lawes. As someone who would like to have a career working in sports, it was a fantastic opportunity. I got to see the inside of what really happens with a professional
sports team and I received advice on the best path
to pursuing my dream.

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

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

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

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

The additional parking garage is
crucial to the success of the project because it
would relieve traffic coming into the building and
clear congestion in the streets. The proposed
parking structure project is a great idea as it
will only benefit the Islanders and the community
of loyal fans and the residents of Long Island.

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

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments.

Our next speaker will be Syd Mandelbaum.

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

MR. MANDELBAUM: Good evening.

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

MR. MANDELBAUM: Is that any better?

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

MR. MANDELBAUM: I am -- I only have a laptop. So I don't know why there's an
issue. Maybe I'll move a little further back or a little further forward. Is that any better?

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

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

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

So our next speaker will be Evan Babb.

(No response.)

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

MR. BABB: Celeste.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

MR. BABB: Okay. How are you?

Thank you.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

MR. BABB: Thank you for holding this hearing.

Great comments from some of my neighbors. And I equally share their concerns and some of the concerns and I'm very happy with the project as well.

I'm a long time resident of Elmont. I'm not too far from the Elmont Road Park. So, you know, hopefully the Islanders will really pay attention to that as they do their redevelopment of that park. It's important to us.

I'd like to see a partnership with the schools, perhaps internships for the kids and, also, as one of the other neighbors had mentioned, you know, maybe opportunities for the adults as well over at the stadium.

I'm hoping that the retail space will be viable. Interesting to see how that goes.

With respect to the railroad, it would be great if, you know, Elmont residents would have access to that, you know, especially during rush hour times.

Hopefully the parking garage will
be aesthetically pleasing and complement the
stadium structure, as it appears to in the -- in
the rendering that you provided earlier.

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

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

So thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments.

The next speaker will be Senator Tom Kaminsky.

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

SENATOR KAMINSKY: Hi. I'm here.

Thank you so much for the time.

For the record, I'm Senator Todd Kaminsky. I think Tom Kaminsky is the traffic
THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm so sorry.

SENATOR KAMINSKY: But thank you for having me.

It's really important that Evan's comments be taken really seriously. And I agree with him on a lot of what he said.

And thank you, ESD, for holding this hearing.

I've always believed it's going to be a transformative project for Nassau. But it's always important that the community share in that prosperity and really be prioritized within that.

So for example, it's great that we're having a new rail station. This has been a dream for a long time. We need to make sure that residents have access to that.

We know that great jobs are going to be created from this project. We need to make sure that residents are prioritized and we're making sure that local people who are qualified for getting great jobs and that's what the community really needs.
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.

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.

So thank you, ESD, for reaching out.

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

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,
you know, right there.

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

Thank you so much.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Senator Kaminsky.

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

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

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

MR. CESARANO: Hi. Can you hear me?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

MR. CESARANO: Excellent.

My name is Ciro Cesarano. Good
try on the pronunciation. It's difficult.

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

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

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

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

Happy holidays to everybody.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments.

Our next speaker will be:

Mohammad Ishmael.

(No response.)

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

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. You can go ahead.

MR. ISHMAEL: Okay.

Good evening.

And thank you for the opportunity.

I'm Mo Ishmael. I'm the president of Queens Village Civic Association.

And thank you for the opportunity.

While we at Queens Village Civic support this overall project, we need to record our concerns regarding the amendment on site B.

We feel this amendment will make that area more congested as far as the impacting the residents of Elmont and Queens Village.

Also, the amendments on site B will result in a negative impact on community residents. It's our main concern. It's a large parking structure shifting space from site A to site B will make site B, which is closer to residents, more congested.

The congestion of site B has eliminated the open space that was necessary for a landscape berm, which will be replaced with an
unsightly wall for the residents on the east.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to
address you.

Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
for your comments.
The next speaker will be Eric Altstadter.

And then so our next set of speakers will be:

Eric Altstadter;
Benji Vogel;
Gary Harding;
Patrick Dowd, aka the sign guy;
and,
Evan Minogue.

And do we have Eric Altstadter.

MR. ALTSTADTER: Yes, I'm here, Celeste.
Can you hear me?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. You can go ahead.

MR. ALTSTADTER: Okay. Great.
Thank you.
I wasn't sure this was going to work. This worked out very nicely.
Thank you very much.
I'm here representing myself. I'm a CPA and I'm a fan of the Islanders and I've been a fan since the Islanders joined the NHL back when
I was 14 or 15. And I've been a season ticket holder for over 25 years, including those years, those dark years in Brooklyn. I used to go to 35 to 40 games a year when the team was in Brooklyn. And I already have my season tickets for the UBS arena.

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

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

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

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

MR. VOGEL: How are you guys doing tonight?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Good. Thanks.

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.
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
19,000 seat arena and I believe a little bit less
for the fans on game night.
I'm a little bit curious to hear
about how many cars will be allowed to park in the
garage because if it's only a small amount I'm
afraid that it will overcrowd the train station.
So that's just a question I'm
wondering and I'm sure many others have as well.
And that's pretty much all I have.
I appreciate you allowing me to
come on here and share my views.
So thank you very much.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Great.
Thank you for your comments.
Our next speaker will be Gary
Harding.
Gary Harding, let us know when
you're ready to speak.

MR. HARDING: Hi. Can you hear me okay?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. You
can go ahead and start.
MR. HARDING: And thank you very
much for the opportunity to speak.
My name is Gary Harding. I am from Halesite. 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.

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.

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

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

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

And I hope and I'm sure that in
these particular, you know, steps that they've
taken that they are trying to make sure that the
community needs are held and that, you know, their
needs are warranted and -- and respected. And I
can't see a project of this undertaking happen without that -- without that.

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

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Harding.

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

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

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

COUNTY EXECUTIVE CURRAN: Hi.

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

COUNTY EXECUTIVE CURRAN: All right.

Thank you very much.

So I have been a supporter of this
project from the very beginning. It accomplishes
three really important things for Nassau County,
let's say a hat trick.

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

It's revenue for local government.

Great for the economy.

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

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

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

I have to thank the Oak View
Group.

And the Islanders for making this
a reality.

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

So thanks for having me and I'll
turn it back over to you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Great.

Thank you for your comments, County Executive.

So the next speaker on our list is Patrick a/k/a sign guy, Dowd.

You can let us know when you're ready to speak.

MR. DOWD: Yes. Ready to go.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Great. You can begin.

MR. DOWD: So I want to just say that I fully support this project from the beginning to the end and the end hasn't come yet. The vision that the owners have had for the Islanders to have this Belmont arena has been good for everybody; the community for the Islanders, for its fan base and for everybody as a whole. Economically it's going to be a fantastic situation.

I will say a few things. I'm a life time Islanders fan from '72. First game was back at the Nassau Coliseum back in September against the Rangers. So I've been through a lot.
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.

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.

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.

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

Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Great. Thank you for your comments. Our next speaker will be Evan Minogue.

Evan Minogue, just please let us know when you're ready.

MR. MINOGUE: I'm here. Can you hear me?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. You can go ahead.

MR. MINOGUE: How do you follow the sign guy? That's pretty crazy.

I've lived -- I'm from Floral Park. My name is Evan Minogue. And I've lived here for all of my 53 years, almost 53 years. And
I've seen Belmont, what it has been and what it can become.

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

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

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

I would think that maybe to help ease congestion and traffic during the games, or any event that's at the arena, if you had sort of an EZPass style entry so that nobody has to pay the
attendant or get change for a 50 or a 20 or try to find the app on their phone that has the bar code to enter the parking -- the building or the north lot. And it's just an idea and I don't know if that's on the table with the designers of the arena but I thought that might help. That would probably help ease the traffic condition all over the area.

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

Thank you for your time.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments.

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

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

And then we'll go to Syd Mandelbaum; and,
Then Max Feinberg.
And then we'll move on to the
speakers that are showing right now.
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.
(No response.)
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.
Syd Mandelbaum will be brought
back in and to show your video and to have a chance
this time to share your comments.
MR. MANDELBAUM: Good evening.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, no.
MR. MANDELBAUM: Are we still in a
situation?
I'll try to speak briefly (echo).
THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry,
Mr. Mandelbaum. In this type of situation the more words you say the more they echo. And so it quickly gets worse.

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

So I think we'll asks you to unmute.

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

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

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

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

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

MR. MANDELBAUM: Thank you.
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.
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
can let us know when you're ready to start.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER VANEL: Well, good evening, Celeste.

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

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

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

We want to make sure that there's joint prosperity and economics and community opportunities in education. We want to make sure that the retail space is -- has great retail. We
want to make sure also that there's ample parking, that the Long Island Railroad station is a full-time station, that is station where residents are able to use the -- the station.

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

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

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

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

Go Islanders. Go community.

Thank you, everyone.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very much.

And I believe that Senator Comrie has now joined us.

So we're going to give him the
courtesy of speaking at this time.

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

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

THE HEARING OFFICER: We can.

You can start whenever you're ready.

SENATOR COMRIE: Yes. Good evening, everyone.

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

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

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

So I just wanted to -- I encourage that we continue to listen to the community and actually do a community wide newsletter so that the
community can be informed and aware of the activities that are happening and the end option will be for the site so that we can make sure that everyone can be aware of exactly what's going on.

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

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

Thank you for allowing me to speak.

I wish everyone a happy holiday.

Please stay safe and please wear your masks.

Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
Senator Comrie, for your comments.

So we are going -- I believe we had said we would have Max Feinberg speak next. And then we'll go on to this list. So if Max Feinberg is on, if you could -- we'll get you ready to speak and you'll let me know when you're ready to start.

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

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

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

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

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

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

So thank you again for giving me
the chance to speak briefly here.

And let's go Islanders.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments.

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

But first we will have the following four speakers.

Frank Galinanes;
Charles Razenson;
Andrew Sapienza; and,
Julia Wender.

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

MR. GALINANES: Hello. Can you hear me?

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

MR. GALINANES: Hi. Good evening.
And thank you very much for
introducing me here into this meeting.

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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

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.

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

The other changes will also benefit the local communities.

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

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

And thank you very much for the time.

Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Excuse me.

Thank you for your comments.
Our next speaker will be Charles Razenson.

Charles Razenson, if you let us know when you're ready to speak.

MR. RAZENSON: I'm here. Am I ready to go?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Great. You can start when you're ready.

Could you -- Charles Razenson, could you unmute yourself and go ahead and start.

(No response.)

THE HEARING OFFICER: Well, we can see you now.

Okay. I'll -- can you try to unmute yourself. Okay.

My apologies but there seems to be some technical difficulties and we aren't able to hear you. It's stating that you're muted.

If you -- if you want to try again to speak, please raise your hand and we'll put you back onto the list.

Thank you so much.

We will move on to the next speaker now. Just let us know if you want to try
again.

Our next speaker will be Andrew Sapienza.

MR. SAPIENZA: Hi. Can you hear me?

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

MR. SAPIENZA: I just wanted to say thank you for letting me come here today.

I am kind of here on behalf of my late father, Paul Sapienza, who was a fervent supporter of this project from the beginning, as were me and the rest of our family.

I grew up here in Elmont. Born and raised. I went to St. Boniface School when it was a school on Elmont Road. So those Elmont Road Park things people were talking about sounds great.

That guy Frank kind of stole my theme a little bit. Being born and raised here in this Town and seeing Belmont Racetrack be this huge thing for one day a year, always seemed underutilized to me. We really should have been doing more stuff with the area. So I'm really excited to see the stadium go there.
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.

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Thank you for your comments.
The next speaker will be Julia Wender.

Julia Wender, let us know when you're ready to start.

MS. WENDER: Hi. Can you hear me?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. Go ahead.

MS. WENDER: I became a New York Islanders fan since I was a little kid. Every weekend I would go to a game at the Nassau Coliseum with my family and I loved every second of it.

When I found out that the New York State approved the Islanders fans for the Belmont area, I was so excited. Too often the team went through questions surrounding where they would play the next season.

In Brooklyn you couldn't see the full ice. It was dark and cavernous and way too cold. While the Coliseum was my second home it also wasn't perfect. Luckily Belmont will be.

For the first time, the Islanders would have a state-of-the-art facility that would
have great food, great sight lines and be in a great location.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

Thank you for your comments.

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

We will take at this point a ten-minute recess. If you signed up to speak and have not yet had your turn, we still have your name on the list and will be continuing in the same order of speakers when we return at eight -- excuse
me, 7:45.

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you everyone.

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

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

And we have a list of speakers but we also have now been joined by Assemblymember
Solages, who we'll give the courtesy of speaking next.

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

And with that, we'll restart.

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

(No response.)

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

I know that we live in a new norm of COVID-19 but this should not delay or impede the community benefits that are owned to the community.
I stand in solidarity with the residents who spoke about the upgrades to Elmont Road Park, prioritizing the community center, prioritizing jobs for the community members who live in the surrounding area, which is Elmont, Floral Park, Valley Stream, Franklin Square, as well as the developer building relationships with many of the restaurants and small businesses in the surrounding area, especially those struggling MWBE restaurants.

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

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

Regarding relocating the proposed parking from beneath the retail village to a freestanding parking structure. The exact location of the garage was not listed in the proposed GPP. I want to make sure that in the final document that is clearly stated and written so there's no changes without community input.
It should not be placed on the residential side of the property. So please let us know the exact location.

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

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.

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.

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

What is the length and composition of the wall?

The developer should also commit to providing security outside the wall, especially
on game days, shopping holidays such as Christmas and during the Belmont Stakes.

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

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

I thank you.

And I hope everyone has a good night.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Assemblymember Solages.

And now our set of speakers will be:

Brian Sigler;

Dan Krupa;

Judy Sanford Guise;

Lori Halop; and,

Andrew Bohnet.

As a reminder, you will be briefly removed and then reinstated in the meeting to enable you to share your video.
And with that, our next speaker will be Brian Sigler. Please let us know when you're ready.

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

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.

MR. KRUPA: Okay. Can you hear me?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

MR. KRUPA: Okay.

Thank you, Celeste. 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.

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.
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.

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.

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.

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.

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
Warriors.

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
for your comments.

Our next speaker will be Judy
Sanford Guise.

Please let us know when you're
ready.

MS. SANFORD-GUISE: I'm waiting
to be unmuted.
THE HEARING OFFICER: We can hear you.

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
is a store.

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

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

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

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

Or is our business just not really the object?

So I am concerned about that and I'd like to hear other people speaking about that and I will, you know, as I said, it just dose'nt seem to make any sense. Why would people go to
shop in Elmont when they're not going to shop in Valley Stream.

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

So anyway, thank you.

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

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

THE HEARING OFFICER: My apologies. Your time was up a few minutes -- a few seconds ago and I was looking for an opportunity to let you know.

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

    So our next speaker will be Dan Krupa.

    I just want to make a short reminder announcement.

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

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

    Oh, yes. Apologies. Dan Krupa already spoke.

    We're on to Lori Halop next.

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

    And so we do believe we'll have
time for additional speakers or for speakers have
-- who have already spoken and would like to speak
again.

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

Thank you for your patience.

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

MS. HALOP: Can you hear me?

THE HEARING OFFICER: No, we can
hear you.

(No response.)

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

MS. HALOP: How about now?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Perfect.

You can begin when you're ready.

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

My concern, I'm an Elmont
resident. I've always been an Elmont resident for
3,000 years. My concern is the community. My
concern is how this is really going to affect the people living in this community. I still haven't seen anything how this is going to help our local businesses. If you're going to put in restaurants and retail and everything over in that area, there's no reason to have it anywhere else in the community. People won't go into our community.

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

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

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

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

This community needs to know.

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

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

So thank you for your time.

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

Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you
for comments.

Next speaker will be Andrew Bohnet.

Andrew Bohnet, we'll give you a moment to get ready.

(No response.)

THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, I think I'm getting the message that Andrew Bohnet has not rejoined us.

So we're going to move on to the next list of speakers.

Excuse me. Our next five speakers will include:

Boris Segovia;

Dean Lykos;

Simmonie Swaby;

Alana Lindsay; and,

Claudia Gray.

So first will be Boris Segovia.

(No response.)

THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, no. I think we don't have a Boris Segovia after all.

So then our next, we'll go on to Dean Lykos.
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
Center on game day where they do have arrangements for the family rooms.

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

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

And I thank you very much.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments.

Our next speaker will be Simmonie Swaby.

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

MS. SWABY: Hello. My name is simmonie Swaby.
Thanks for hosting this meeting tonight.

I serve on the CAC and I've been listening and paying very close attention and I just want to highlight a few of the concerns I've heard thus far from -- from my community of Elmont.

I'm hearing residents talk about more outreach. I'm also hearing a call for more transparency.

I really liked the -- idea of a community newsletter. Sometimes I try to have conversations concerning the project but people just don't have a -- a clue in terms of -- not necessarily a clue but they are just not well informed on the project, its benefit and possibly negative points that they may or may not surmise.

I also hear a call for more jobs, a focus on jobs that will be highlighted for this community. And I also heard a lot about parks and the focus on the community center.

So as I prepared to -- prepare myself for the next slew of meetings, I personally will make it my job to focus on the community's concerns and find a way to impress on the board how
important it is to really focus in on these particular points so that we have a partnership. We can build a partnership that's long lasting where all parties feel like they are being positively impacted and getting good results from this project.

Thank you.

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

Our next speaker will be Alana Lindsay.

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

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

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, we can.

You can start whenever you're ready.

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

A lot of the focus here is on cars and I know that Nassau County is, you know, it's a
suburb. I live in Elmont and it's big on cars but we need on cars but we need to just get past that and just do a better job of making sure that there are pedestrian walkways all over the place, as well as a lot of -- in conjunction along with the roadways, there's bike parking, there's bicycle lanes. That should just be more clear on this plan.

And that's it.

Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Great.

Thank you for your comments.

Our next speaker will be Claudia Gray.

Claudia Gray let us know when you're ready to begin.

MS. GRAY: Can you hear me?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, we can.

You can start when you're ready.

MS. GRAY: Thank you and good night from Queens Village.

Seasons greetings and Merry Christmas.

My name is Claudia Gray, a
resident of Queens Village, founder of Speaking into Action, Inc. and a member of the Queens Village Civic Association.

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

Some concerns from Queens Village residents are:

- The LIRR needs to stop at the Queens Village Station, especially during rush hours.
- Executive jobs with six figure salary should be sourced to Queens Village residents.
- Job training opportunities for Queens residents, especially due to the impact of COVID-19.
- Internship opportunities for students from Queens Village; and,
- A partnership with York College.
- Opportunities for children with disabilities; and,

Lastly, let me say, we Speak Into
Action to reimagine our community.

Wishing you the best of 2021.

Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments.

So we have completed this -- that set of speakers. We have a few -- we have additional speakers who have raised their hands and have added recently.

So our next speaker will be David Steinberg.

David Steinberg, let us know when you're ready to begin.

(No response.)

MR. STEINBERG: Good evening.

First, I would like to thank the board for allowing me the opportunity to speak tonight.

My name is Aallyah Steinberg and I'm a third generation Islanders' fan. My grandparents witnessed John Tonelli produce a perfect pass to Bobby Nystrom to secure the franchise's first Stanley Cup at Nassau Coliseum.

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

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

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

UBS is the Islanders' arena.

This place will become the new center of unity and
pride for fans both old and new. It will bring a new population of people to Elmont, whether they come to witness a game, concert or other event.

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

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

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

It's rare that a franchise gets to experience such a large transition. And this community has been presented with the chance to be a part of it. This has been an exhausting year full of negatives and bad news and it was incredibly easy to develop a pessimistic complex.

But as we begin to heal, it is time to focus on
every positive possible.

UBS can be this community's hope. It has the potential to bring a sense of light year. However, in order for this arena to maximize its possibilities, it must be embraced and it requires this community's support.

I have hope for UBS and I trust that the New York Islanders organization has everyone's best interests in mind.

I look to the future of this franchise and I am willing to embrace a new start. I ask that you are able to do the same with our community. May we all be able to experience unity and pride in the future.

I wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy new year.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments.

And our next speaker will be Virginia.

Virginia, let us know when you're ready to begin.
VIRGINIA: Hi.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Hi.

VIRGINIA: Am I there?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, you're there. You can start when you're ready.

VIRGINIA: Okay. Well, I'm listening to all the Islanders fans talking about their tailgating and the parking garage.

First of all, the parking over there is not safe. Ten years ago I worked there part time. Ten years ago our people were approached by -- a well dressed man in the parking lot. Now you're going to put up structures that are going to hide people approaching people.

And as far as their tailgating parties go, that's not supposed to be happening even though the Islanders pages say they're going to do it anyway and they don't care how many fines you give them.

Okay. So they need to understand. They are not tailgating and doing their Islanders honk over here because we don't want to hear it.

Okay.

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

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

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

And community space. Who said we needed community space in this new thing? Because we all talked about it and we said we already have that at the library. We don't need another community space. We already have meeting spaces.
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
of all, they're utilized on Father's Day. Father's Day is a huge day there. Huge. It's bigger than Belmont Stakes Day. So don't say it's only one day a year because you don't go there so you don't know. I worked there. I never knew until I worked there. So I'm tired of hearing people say it was not utilized. It was utilized.

THE HEARING OFFICER: You have ten seconds left.

VIRGINIA: That's fine. That's all I have to say. But they are going to have to wait a long time to get out of that parking garage. They're not going to use that parking garage. I know I don't like to wait to get out anywhere.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

Thank you for your comments. And I believe -- I'm just checking our list to see. I believe our next speaker will be Natasha Appleby.

You'll be shifted out and back into the meeting and let us know when you're ready to speak.
MS. APPLEBY: Hi, good evening. This is Ms. Appleby. How are you?
THE HEARING OFFICER: Good. Thank you.
MS. APPLEBY: Good evening, everyone.

My name is Natasha Appleby here. Again, an Elmont resident, specifically located close to the retail space, also the PTA president for the Gotham Avenue School, which is the closest school to the project.

I certainly came to this project hearing the information with some hesitance. I have to say over the last year ESD, as well as the Islanders has done significant reach out. The information is there.

I would also like to put it on some of residents and my families around me to be aware. I think Ms. Lawes is around these blocks every other day and folks know who she is, or should know who she is if information is needed. I applaud the team, the construction so far has been not interruptive at all. We had a couple of meetings over the last two
to three weeks as well to get input from residents specifically on the retail space, the parking structure, as well as the landscaping. And I applaud again the team for allowing us to provide feedback into what gets constructed close to our property and how we are impacted by that.

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

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

I'm thankful, you know, that you connected me to XY&Z person. So to the extent that you do have information, I encourage residents to
share as well and not keep information in a silo. And, you know, I look forward. Nobody knows what's to be. I understand folks concern. I have the same concern with the retail space in a post COVID environment. But we would have to place some trust in you guys that you will have an open forum to discuss what is to come, considering, you know, these changes in, you know, economic status and the like. And, you know, we look forward to engaging in those conversations. I appreciate everyone's time.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for your comments. And I believe our next speaker will be Simmonie Swaby.

Simmonie Swaby, please let us know when you are ready to begin.

MS. SWABY: Yes, hello. Good afternoon again.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Hi.

MS. SWABY: I forgot -- yes, hi. I forgot to touch on one point. I do believe in my heart that this could be a rewarding acquisition for our community. I -- I have heard many
sentiments from local community members on the project. But I feel, I really do believe that the organization of the Islanders, based on how I've seen them operate in other communities, will hold up their end of the bargain in terms of treating the community with respect and generally trying to promote a relationship that -- that works for both sides.

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

I think, you know, the organization has a very big opportunity here to, you know, promote more diversity within the -- the area of -- of just hockey on a whole. I think we have an opportunity here to increase the fan base for hockey in Elmont, make it more inclusive somehow. And I think there are opportunities to do that. But as you look to come to Elmont and enjoy yourself, I would hope that the -- the notion of
Elmont or any surrounding area be blighted would be something that would be eliminated from anyone's lexicon.

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

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for those comments.

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

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

Matthew Hynes;

Susan Ganz;

Brian Sigler;

Andrew Bohnet; and,
Boris Segovia.

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

(Off the record.)

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.

Let us know when you're ready.

MR. SIGLER: Can you hear me?

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

MR. SIGLER: Thank you very much. I'm Brian Sigler. I'm a resident of Jericho, New York, born and grown up on Long Island.

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

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

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

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

So at this time, we -- we do not have any other speakers signed up to speak at this
point. And so we will take a brief pause in the meeting, if anyone else joins the meeting and they would like to speak, they will have the opportunity. So we will keep the webinar open but we're going to pause in our -- our sharing of the video and then in calling speakers until -- at this point, it's now 8:30. We'll check back in at 8:45. But as the Hearing Officer, I of course will be here the whole time. I may turn off my camera for a bit.

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

Thank you very much.

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

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

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

MS. POLO: Thank you.

Magaly Polo.

THE HEARING OFFICER: My
1

apologies.

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

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?

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.

Okay.

Thank you for your comments.

So now we'll go back on a brief break but we'll still be here. If anyone raises
their hand and we'll check back in in a few moments.

(Brief recess.)

THE HEARING OFFICER: Hello attendees.

And welcome back to the public hearing for the modification to the Modified General Project Plan for the Belmont Park Redevelopment.

We have been on pause since -- for about the last ten minutes because we didn't have additional speakers signed up. So I wanted to come back and state that it's 8:45 p.m. This hearing will end at 9:00 p.m.

If there's anyone who has joined recently or has been on who would like to speak, please use the raise hand function on Zoom or dial star 9 on your phone.

Okay.

We have one more person. We have one person who has raised their hand to speak. But I think two times is the total number that is generally allowed. So we're going to hold off on that just a moment.
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.

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

And then Judy Sanford Guise.

So Virginia, if you'd like to speak.

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

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.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

Thank you very much for your comments.

And I believe we have one more
person who wants to speak, Judy Sanford Guise. Please let us know when you're ready.

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

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

Be well. Peace and shalom.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you so much.

That's very kind of you.

We have a great team.

(Off the record.)

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

Thank you all if you've stuck with us until now, thank you so much for attending this
evening's hearing and happy holidays to everyone.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please note that you may submit
any additional comments on the proposed
modification of the Modified General Project Plan
for the Belmont Park Redevelopment Civic and Land
Use Improvement project to the address on the
screen.

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

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

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

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

Thank you all for your comments.
The time is now 9:01 p.m.

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

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

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

MS. POLO: Thank you for this opportunity.

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

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

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

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

(No response.)

THE HEARING OFFICER: Let the record reflect that no one has answered in the
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.)
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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