

ORIGINAL

VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD
PUBLIC HEARING
on the
COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT
August 2, 2012
6:15 p.m.

Kennedy Memorial Park
Conference Room
335 Greenwich Street
Hempstead, New York



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

AL FORDE, Chairman

LUIS FIGUEROA, Co-Chairman

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. FORDE: We are ready to begin,
everyone.

Before we begin, can everyone stand
so we can do the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. FORDE: We were told from the
last meeting that we pledged the flag but we
didn't give grace to God, so we have Reverend
Benjamin here to say a prayer.

REVEREND BENJAMIN: Let me say
briefly, out of all the things we heard, and
we heard everybody on Tuesday, one of the most
powerful things that I've heard is what the
gentleman said. He said we are pledging
allegiance to everybody but we ought to
acknowledge God. I so appreciate that, so
will you join with me while we bow our heads
and give reverence to God.

(Prayer.)

MR. FORDE: Before we begin, I would
like to acknowledge some people in the room.
The Mayor is in the corner. Trustee Ryan. We
have Don Monti from Renaissance and his group.

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2 We have all different types of dignitaries,
3 too many to mention. So what we are going to
4 do is we will begin.

5 Before we begin, Don Monti from
6 Renaissance would like to say a few words.

7 MR. MONTI: I don't want to block
8 anyone, so my apologies.

9 Hi, everyone. I was here two nights
10 ago, not here but before a good many of you
11 that are here tonight. Part of my job as well
12 as the Community Benefits Committee is to
13 listen. And I did listen, and I heard a
14 number of people speak out about jobs and
15 about job opportunities. I heard a number of
16 people speak out about existing businesses
17 that are in downtown, about existing people
18 that live in the downtown.

19 Let it be perfectly clear, there will
20 be no displacement of anyone, there will be no
21 eminent domain proceedings. Also, let it be
22 clear that what we want to do is give existing
23 businesses an opportunity of thinking about
24 how they can expand. We want to give existing
25 businesses an opportunity to know that they

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2 are not going to be displace. And we also
3 want to give career opportunities for
4 entrepreneurs that want to think about opening
5 a business here in Hempstead.

6 So what we have done since Tuesday is
7 we have suggested -- on August 23rd, we are
8 bringing somebody in from Washington, D.C.,
9 someone who is the founder of the Main Street
10 Organization, Kennedy Smith. She will be here
11 for a full day, and the purpose of her being
12 here is to reach out to every single business
13 owner in the Village and reach out to every
14 single person that wants to potentially open a
15 business in this Village and somehow tell them
16 how to do it. That's number one.

17 Number two, to show that we listened
18 is that in September what we would like to do
19 is have Hempstead's first career day. What we
20 want to do is have a tent and we want put it
21 up in a parking lot and have people in the
22 tent taking applications showing folks who
23 live in the Village that we mean business. We
24 mean business about putting people in the
25 Village to work. So please, put me to the

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2 test.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. FORDE: Good evening, everyone.

5 My name is Al Forde. I am the chair
6 of the Hempstead Community Benefits Agreement
7 executive board. To my right is Luis
8 Figueroa, Co-Chair. To his immediate right is
9 Andrina Wyatt. To the far left is Ed Tolver.
10 Next to him to his left is Lawrence Burns. We
11 have Reverend Benjamin. And to my left right
12 here is Scott Kershaw.

13 MS. GOINS: Don't forget me.

14 MR. FORDE: And to the rear is Diane
15 Goins. Sorry about that, Diane.

16 Before we begin, I would like to note
17 that there were some concerns about the
18 validity of the CBA committee. Please be
19 informed that the members of the CBA Committee
20 represent all aspects of our Village, from the
21 NAACP civic leaders, education and youth
22 leaders, housing and development, clergy,
23 political leaders from both sides, Latino
24 leaders, business leaders and so on.

25 The CBA Committee was appointed by

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2 Mayor Hall for one charge, to hear, collect,
3 report the opinions and desires of the
4 Hempstead community so that such ideas can be
5 considered in the negotiations of the
6 development. Because we want to make sure
7 that as many voices as possible are heard and
8 that all ideas presented to this Board are
9 fairly and reasonably considered, the CBA
10 executive board would like to assure you that
11 we will not rush the process and we will leave
12 our doors open for extended dialogue on this
13 major undertaking in our Village.

14 We, therefore, ask that the Village
15 Board weigh all the positions raised here
16 tonight and that in the immediate future not
17 rush the public process. However, it is also
18 important for me to mention that we do not
19 represent the Village Hall and that,
20 therefore, in carrying out our charge, we can
21 only hear and officially report our ideas of
22 what you want to see surrounding this
23 development. For example, we need to know if
24 you want to see a catering hall, a
25 multipurpose sports field, anything.

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2 Therefore, respectfully, those with other
3 Village issues should visit the Mayor and the
4 Trustee Board during the Village Hall meetings
5 held on the first and third Tuesday of the
6 month.

7 Thank you for your patience.

8 Please silence all cell phones.

9 The rules are that everyone will be
10 allowed three minutes. At the end of three
11 minutes, you will hear this bell.

12 And I will call the first speaker
13 now. And please state your first name, last
14 name and address. And for anyone that needs
15 an interpreter, we have Daphne over here, she
16 is a Spanish interpreter.

17 MR. FIGUEROA: (Speaking Spanish).

18 MR. FORDE: There are several ways to
19 contact us for those that do not wish to
20 speak. You can contact us also three ways.
21 You can contact us through the website, which
22 is CBAHempstead.org. When you hit on that
23 website, there is a link, and the link says
24 recommendations. You click on the
25 recommendation link, and you can write as much

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2 as you want as far as any type of information
3 that you might need to give us in order to
4 make this possible.

5 There is also an e-mail. You can
6 e-mail us at info@CBAHempstead.org. There you
7 can write extensively also if you do not wish
8 speak this evening.

9 And the third way is through regular
10 mail, you can contact us at CBA Hempstead, 80
11 Clinton Street, number 136, Hempstead, New
12 York, 11550.

13 We will say that again in closing.

14 We are going to begin now calling
15 names.

16 Our first name is going to be
17 Mr. Anthony Kuyatteh.

18 Please come up to the podium.

19 MR. KUYATTEH: Good evening, brothers
20 and sisters. We are happy to have you here
21 this night.

22 And the trouble continues until the
23 battle is won, as we say, so when we keep on
24 the struggle. And I know this is our time.

25 This is our time. This is our moment and we

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2 are going to keep the struggle going on
3 because as we said last week today we see we
4 have a more beautiful panel than we would last
5 week and we know that all that we discussed
6 last week will work very well. And today --
7 oh, I forgot to give my name. I am sorry.

8 My name is Anthony Kuyatteh,
9 K-U-Y-A-T-T-E-H. And I live at 100 Terrace
10 Avenue, Apartment 154, Hempstead, zip code is
11 11550.

12 As I said, we are here to make sure
13 that what we want in Hempstead continues. And
14 the topic, and I was saying last time, which I
15 am still staying is about living wage and
16 affordable housing. When people get a good
17 living wage, they can afford to have houses.
18 But with that, if that's going to be the
19 struggle, let's say, for example, you make \$10
20 a month and you spend only \$3 out of that,
21 that's affordable. If you make, let's say,
22 make about a thousand for a year and you spend
23 that money, that's affordable. But if you
24 make less money and you pay more than you want
25 or you have, you have problems. Like I said,

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2 if you make \$10 a week and spend more than \$3
3 a month, which you make, you are in problems.

4 So we hope and pray that all that we
5 put together works in our way. And I hope
6 that we all here live forward to see the
7 prosperity and glory of what we are trying to
8 put here today. I am pretty sure we, as a
9 member of the New York Community for Change,
10 we strive very hard to work with people. And
11 Hempstead is a beautiful place, like I always
12 say, we all love it and we want to be here,
13 and be here in peace and in good spirit.

14 May we all leap forward in that good
15 spirit.

16 MR. FORDE: Joe Gill.

17 When you come up, please give your
18 name, spell it, and your address.

19 MR. GILL: Joseph Gill, J-O-S-E-P-H,
20 G-I-L-L, 94 Remson Avenue, Hempstead, New York
21 11550.

22 Good evening.

23 I am chair of the New York
24 Communities for Change. We formed a coalition
25 for the People's Community Benefits Agreement.

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2 The coalition consists of the ABBA Leadership
3 Center, Reverend Benjamin; NYCC Small
4 Business, Juan Escudero; Heaven, Dawn Russo;
5 Hempstead Classroom Teachers Association,
6 Eunis Hazel; Hempstead Coordinating Council of
7 Civic Associations; New York Community or
8 Change, that's me; Youth Empowerment, that is
9 Supreme Mathematics behind me.

10 The people have written their own
11 Community Benefits Agreement. We want
12 housing, we want jobs, small businesses needs
13 protection. Community facilities.
14 Investments in our schools, performing arts
15 center, recreation center for our youth and
16 transportation to our schools. We have it
17 done, it is written. All you have to do is
18 read it. We are not messing around.
19 Apparently Mr. Monti said it, we can test him,
20 we are testing you, yes we are, we are ready.
21 We have copies ready to go on the ground if
22 anyone needs a copy. We have copies in the
23 back here. If we run out of copies, leave
24 your name and we will make sure a copy gets to
25 you.

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2 This is a document of the people's
3 Community Benefits Agreement that should be
4 based on negotiations with the developer. All
5 we want, all of us, is real positive change,
6 guaranteed benefits for our community, legally
7 binding guarantees not just talk. And
8 independent monitor, independent compliance
9 committee to make sure that the Community
10 Benefits Agreement is obeyed.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. MATHEMATICS: When we first
13 started our coalition, the was purpose to
14 represent community --

15 MR. FORDE: You can sign up and then
16 you can speak.

17 MR. FORDE: Wanda B. Jones.

18 MS. JONES: Hello, my name is Wanda
19 B. Jones. I reside at 15 Wellington Place in
20 Hempstead.

21 I guess I have expressed at other
22 times that I am definitely in favor of the
23 redevelopment and definitely in favor of the
24 Community Benefits Agreement that will benefit
25 the community. I believe that everyone here

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2 in front of me and behind me, we have the
3 Village of Hempstead at heart. We want to see
4 this community developed and blossom and
5 everyone's rights appreciated. Businesses,
6 residents and everyone. I believe what we
7 need to -- we understand that employment,
8 housing and business have been voiced over and
9 over again as the things that are very dear to
10 everyone here in the Village of Hempstead.
11 But in the development of this community, the
12 benefit agreement we have got to make sure
13 that in its writing in the document that it be
14 measurable so that it can be monitored. So
15 that it is not just a list of wish list of
16 things that you want to see happen. But a
17 list of things that you want to see but they
18 are written and documented in a way that is
19 measurable and can be monitored.

20 There should be time lines, projects
21 should be written out and developed in a way
22 that -- so that they can again -- like a work
23 plan. This is what the community wants to
24 see. These are the things that we want to see
25 in place. But this is how it should happen,

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2 it needs to be -- so many of this needs to
3 happen by such and such a time in such and
4 such a manner, possibly being monitored by
5 such and such a way. How many times it should
6 be monitored. Should there be monthly
7 reports. Who should be doing the monitoring.
8 I think we pretty much know what is wanted,
9 now it is about getting it recorded in such a
10 way so that it can be acted upon and monitored
11 and measured out. I think that just makes
12 sense to me.

13 Thank you so much.

14 One more thing. When I say
15 measurable, it should be specific, not I want
16 some candy, I want jobs, how many jobs, what
17 kind of jobs, maybe you have got short term
18 and long term. You know, you have got
19 contracts, all kinds of businesses, what kind
20 of businesses are going to really be viable
21 for this community. That's the kind of
22 thought that needs to go in the development of
23 this Community Benefits Agreement.

24 MR. FORDE: Pat Moore.

25 MS. MOORE: Good evening.

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2 Pat Moore, 30 Sikes Avenue,
3 Hempstead.

4 I have been thinking about some
5 practical things that you might want to
6 consider. When we are talking about making
7 jobs available, Somebody mentioned the other
8 night the possibility of signs downtown. I
9 think that you could enlarge that notion, and
10 you may have seen in other communities wooden
11 notice boards that have like a Mica surface
12 you can you unlock and change the papers
13 inside, something that could be updated. If
14 you had those constructed at various key
15 places around the Village where upcoming job
16 opportunities could be listed, that might be
17 helpful.

18 I would suggest that one of the
19 requirements in the agreement should be that
20 Renaissance should prepare and keep up to date
21 a list of people that a proposed investor
22 would be required to contact. So that if they
23 are going to be hiring, either for
24 construction or for something when the
25 construction is finished, that that list could

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2 include the churches, the Chambers of
3 Commerce, the Civic Associations with the
4 addresses and e-mails and that kind of stuff.
5 And if they are going to be one of the
6 proposed builders, that they also would have
7 to contact all of those and specify who has to
8 be notified. And that could be updated at
9 some regular point.

10 And you would be told that you would
11 have if, you are going to, if you say I would
12 like to build a movie theater in Hempstead,
13 okay, let's talk about it. If you do, you are
14 going to have to sign one of these things, and
15 one of the things you have to agree to do is
16 notify all these different people that you
17 have job openings. Then you have to submit
18 proof. When you do a legal document and serve
19 it on somebody, you have proof of service that
20 you would have to demonstrate that you had, in
21 fact, notified all those people.

22 And I even wrote this all down
23 (handing).

24 MR. FORDE: Thank you.

25 Marco Martorano.

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2 MR. MARTORANO: Good evening.

3 My name is Marco Martorano,

4 M-A-R-C-O, M-A-R-T-O-R-A-N-O. I am the acting

5 executive director with the Hispanic

6 Counseling Center here in Hempstead at 344

7 Fulton Avenue. I just assumed the job

8 recently, so I am not very familiar with

9 Renaissance yet, but I am here to represent

10 and support any effort to improve the jobs.

11 Mainly, I guess, I am the voice for a

12 lot of Latinos that live in Hempstead that

13 cannot speak for themselves because of the

14 language barrier. At the agency we work with

15 a lot of people that are working poor who hold

16 two or three jobs just to pay rent and maybe

17 send some money home to relatives. We hear a

18 lot of struggle in housing. In the past few

19 years, there has been a lot of loss of jobs.

20 Our guys sometimes even work as far as the

21 Hamptons in construction, gardening, the

22 restaurant business, so any kind of service

23 job that would be very helpful for our

24 community.

25 I was able to see some ideas of

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2 Renaissance on the Internet, on YouTube and it
3 sounded wonderful. I remember being a young
4 immigrant here in the United States and my
5 mother proudly took me to downtown Hempstead
6 on my first shopping trip where I went to A&S
7 and bought my first clothes.

8 I grew up in a country where you only
9 had one pair of shoes and one pair of pants
10 and my initiation to being an American was to
11 go shopping with dollars. So this brings back
12 those memories for me.

13 And I think Hempstead continues to be
14 a thriving community for immigrants. So I am
15 representing them today.

16 We at the agency too work with
17 children who right now don't have too many
18 hopes for the future. They are not getting a
19 sense of being doctors and entrepreneurs, so I
20 think this idea of bringing new business would
21 give them some hope and some sense that they
22 have a future.

23 So thank you very much.

24 MR. FORDE: Elias Mestizo.

25 MR. MESTIZO: Good evening.

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2 My name is Elias Mestizo, 24 Foster
3 Place in Hempstead. I am a resident of
4 Hempstead.

5 As the gentleman before me spoke,
6 when I first came into the United States I
7 moved to Hempstead. I have grown up in
8 Hempstead. I have lived in Hempstead since I
9 was 11 years old. Currently I am the
10 president of the Teachers Association in
11 Hempstead, New York and also part of the
12 Community Benefits for the Hempstead
13 Coalition.

14 One of the things as a resident and a
15 leader in the community, I think, my passion
16 is education. And as we are looking to
17 redevelop Hempstead, there will be an impact
18 in schools in the sense that we could have
19 more children possibly coming into the
20 schools. And as you know, many of our
21 students, because of the way our buildings
22 have been maintained, or many of them old are
23 in portable, they are in trailers studying and
24 that impacts them. And although there are a
25 lot complaints against this school district,

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2 one of the biggest things that I have to say
3 is if we are able to take care of those
4 buildings, we are able to bring students into
5 real classrooms, I believe the impact will
6 help the students because they will truly get
7 a full education in a classroom where, first
8 of all, they deserve, and second of all, they
9 will have everything that they need to move
10 forward, and the teacher will also have those
11 resources needed.

12 So part of the CBA and part of what
13 we are asking is to help us with the school
14 buildings, help us with classrooms, help us
15 with moving forward. And not only in the
16 Village but also the educational process of
17 the our children, because at the end of the
18 day, those children are the who hopefully will
19 not only graduate, they will graduate but not
20 only have an opportunity to stay in Hempstead
21 but have affordable housing or have housing in
22 Hempstead, look for a job in Hempstead and be
23 able to invest through entrepreneurship and
24 open up their own businesses. So we are
25 asking you to consider education as part of

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2 redevelopment.

3 So thank you very much.

4 MR. FORDE: Earl Lyn, Jr. Is Earl
5 Lyn, Jr. in the building?

6 Okay, Naomi Elks.

7 MS. ELKS: Good afternoon.

8 My name is Naomi Elks. I live at 601
9 Baldwin Road in Hempstead and I am 40-plus
10 resident of Hempstead.11 I have a major concern that
12 Renaissance is not setting up a presence
13 training program in advance to train the
14 African Americans between the ages of 18 and
15 45 years old. They are unemployed, they keep
16 going to job fairs, they are not getting jobs.17 My other concern is that a monitoring
18 agency be set up to do the hiring process and
19 do the selection recruitment process.20 I am president of the Black Social
21 Workers of Nassau County based in Hempstead
22 and also a Board of EOC of Nassau County. The
23 EOC is well qualified and able to select
24 trainees for these present programs.

25 My last concern is that Hempstead is

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2 very congested at this point. What is
3 Renaissance going to do about building more
4 highways to get to Hempstead? We need some
5 kind of bypass to move some of this traffic
6 now.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. FORDE: Pastor Curtis Riley?

9 PASTOR RILEY: Good evening.

10 My name is Curtis Riley, R-I-L-E-Y.

11 I live at 10 Ingraham Street, Hempstead.

12 I guess I want to start off saying
13 that I think everyone mostly is concerned
14 about making promises that you can't keep.
15 And I was glad to hear what Don Monti said
16 about some things he said won't happen. We
17 want to put to the test. I would like to see
18 this project go forward. I would like to see
19 it go forward, but I would also like to see
20 the accountability mechanism. We need it in
21 writing. And I am still concerned about the
22 preparation for the jobs and opportunities
23 that are going to exist. Not just jobs itself
24 but the careers after Renaissance, maybe ten
25 years of developing, where are we going to get

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2 another job from, right? So we have to start
3 thinking beyond job availability when
4 development starts. We have to think about
5 getting people certified, getting people
6 qualified for those jobs, funding insurance,
7 hard money for jobs when they come. Jump
8 start a career. Everybody is not going to be
9 a construction person. So we have to look at
10 -- I was glad to hear about the business thing
11 you got coming up from Washington. Maybe that
12 will help people start thinking about owning
13 business. Find out do you want to own a
14 business? Taking ownership in the Village
15 and starting your own business, small
16 business, whatever.

17 Housing is an issue, youth
18 opportunities because the word brain drain, we
19 have to make sure we create something in the
20 community that will keep the smart ones want
21 to stay here because they can utilize their
22 brains, but most of them get training and get
23 their degrees and want to get out of here
24 because there are no opportunities. So we
25 have to think about youth opportunities,

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2 conditions of our schools.

3 I think if we can get all these
4 things in writing, if we can get some kind of
5 accountability mechanism in place where people
6 can feel like you are going to keep your word.
7 You did say we can put you to the test, right?

8 I want to see this thing move, but we
9 will put you to the test.

10 MR. FORDE:

11 MR. SAIEVA: Thank you for letting me
12 speak. I like what you said at the beginning
13 of the meeting.

14 Robert Saieva, Big Bob, 69
15 Meadowbrook, Hempstead 11550.

16 We need a lot of businesses because
17 you can build this great big project and if
18 you don't have the right businesses for
19 stores, movie theatres, convention centers,
20 art centers and like that, you need a reason
21 for people to come. It is not going to
22 survive with just all the people in Hempstead.
23 You need outside people to come and spend
24 money.

25 When we used have A&S, all stores,

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2 and all of that, I actually contacted Sears
3 Auto Centers, they might be interested in
4 opening a store downtown. There is a lot
5 different places. A professional soccer team,
6 which would be really good in the Spanish
7 area, maybe a girls softball team, we can play
8 against major leagues, we have the Yankees,
9 the Mets, that would be a good thing. I
10 already contacted the Ducks and they were
11 interested in some kind of fundraising for
12 that. They need some kind funding, but it
13 could make a big splash, create jobs and
14 tremendous apprenticeship, great businesses.
15 We need venture capital so you can set up new
16 businesses. And this is a long-term 10-year
17 program. So we have to hook up with all the
18 colleges, maybe get colleges to come in and
19 put an annex right here. I know you have
20 Hofstra, but maybe they can put one downtown
21 with the students and they can volunteer and
22 do a lot different things to help the
23 community. Get all nonprofits, all churches,
24 get everybody working together instead of
25 fighting.

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2 There is enough money and progress in
3 this whole thing for everybody to share and
4 not fight over it. That's what we have to
5 start doing, working together. Yes, there is
6 going to be some problems, that's why you are
7 here, that's why we have this so-called
8 agreement, whatever it is, going to be
9 compromised here and there, whatever. And we
10 have Don Monti to the test.

11 And that's about it. So I really
12 think it is a good project. And how many
13 people are really for this project? I am sure
14 there are some people. If you are for the
15 project, stand up for the project. That's
16 what need, people to support it. We need
17 financing, we need money. Now they are making
18 me stop, but that's what we need, enthusiasm.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. FORDE: Lonnie Mills.

21 MR. MILLS: My name is Lonnie Mills,
22 L-O-N-N-I-E, M-I-L-L-S, 14 Elk Street,
23 Hempstead, New York 11550.

24 Good evening, everyone. Good
25 evening, Hempstead.

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2 You have to bring some life here.

3 Hempstead is a good place to do business and
4 it is a good place to live.

5 Does everyone agree?

6 AUDIENCE: Yes.

7 MR. MILLS: Amen.

8 Everyone has already said jobs and
9 stuff, so we don't want to just keeping
10 hashing on and saying the same thing, we
11 understand. And if you don't understand the
12 strength of or the success or how successful
13 or unsuccessful this project is based on the
14 CBA, the strength of the CBA.

15 I grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and
16 over at Atlantic Yard they had a CBA, they did
17 building over there, I don't know who is
18 familiar with Brooklyn, but on the basis of
19 strength of their CBA and apprenticeship
20 program, the master definitely did not -- the
21 developer did not do certain things and on the
22 strength of the CBA they were able to take it
23 a step further and make sure that they honored
24 what was in that CBA. So I just want to say
25 that the strength of the CBA will denote the

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2 success or unsuccess of the project. It has
3 to be polite, it has to be laid out, you have
4 to be visionary right now, think long term and
5 also short term. We can't think for now. We
6 have to bring the future into the now, so you
7 have to see 5, 10, 15 years, and once they,
8 the master developers are not in the mix
9 anybody else that they bring in to come in
10 after them, they will have to honor the
11 strength of the CBA.

12 That's all I have to say.

13 MR. FORDE: Mary Crosson.

14 MS.CROSSON: Good afternoon.

15 My name is Mary Crosson, and I live
16 at 27 Dorlon Street, Hempstead, New York.

17 I am here to talk about the housing,
18 one of my biggest concerns. I am glad to see
19 everyone here and we all have to be going
20 towards the same goal, and the goal is to make
21 sure that the residents of Hempstead get jobs,
22 make sure that the residents get affordable
23 housing that will be built.

24 With that said, I hope and pray that
25 we are all going to be looking and aiming for

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2 that same goal because without it, we have a
3 big problem. It has been said by housing
4 about the schools. I am hoping they will put
5 money investment in the schools to make sure
6 that we can get rid of those trailers in the
7 school yard. And jobs, to make sure people
8 will be able to get jobs.

9 Someone said already if you give a
10 person a job that is making minimum wage, they
11 can afford apartments, but if you do not give
12 them jobs, they will not be able stay here.
13 That's big concern of ours too. I am hoping
14 and praying that whoever the developer is, you
15 all have said it, we heard it over and over,
16 that the housing problem will be solved, the
17 jobs will be solved.

18 And like I said, I live here and
19 watch and I am hoping and hoping that you will
20 hold up to where you are. I heard it from the
21 Mayor, I heard it from the trustees and I am
22 hoping as we leave here today your words will
23 be true.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. FORDE: Wendy Flores.

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Proceedings

MS. FLORES: Good evening.

My name is Wendy Flores, I live at 299 Jackson Street, Hempstead, New York 11550.

I am here to congratulate the CBA Board -- I'm sorry, I had to write this down -- and thank them for their work. We have an opportunity to get this done and move forward with career jobs, solid propositions and real community benefits, that's what I want. And a real benefit for me and the rest of the residents of Hempstead.

Thank you, have a nice evening.

MR. FORDE: Latrice Smith.

MS. SMITH: My name is Latrice Smith, 31 Sammons Place, Hempstead, New York.

I would just like to say that as a youth, we need to get this project moving forward in order to help create jobs and a better atmosphere for kids my age.

Thank you.

MR. FORDE: Derrick Armstrong.

MR. ARMSTRONG: My name is Derrick Armstrong. I am a resident of Hempstead, I live at 80 Surrey Lane, Hempstead.

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2 I have owned a house in Hempstead
3 since 1986. I am a contractor, been a
4 contractor for the last 30 years in the
5 Village of Hempstead. I work all over,
6 Queens, Manhattan, Jersey, Connecticut. I am
7 for the project 100 percent. I really believe
8 they are going to do what they say they are
9 going to do. I met with Jeff Proffet months
10 ago and he informed me of the contract with
11 the Village of Hempstead, which I did three or
12 four weeks ago. I was here at the meeting. I
13 brought six contractors that are residents of
14 the Village of Hempstead. He also ensured me
15 that there was \$625 millions that was set
16 aside for the minorities and he was assured
17 that the money was going definitely for
18 minority contractors.

19 I am here to verify that that
20 information is true, I was told to verify
21 that, and I am hoping that the \$625 million, I
22 am hoping it will go towards minority
23 contractors because I think that is something
24 that we all need.

25 In the past I have worked for our

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2 development and the problem that I had with
3 other developments is that a lot of subs, when
4 it comes to minorities, they normally deal
5 with a general contractor, a GC, and 90
6 percent of the time the GC never, never takes
7 care of the subcontractors. So I was also
8 assured that most jobs that come from the
9 development for the minority is going to be
10 directly, they will get paid directly from the
11 development and you don't have to go through a
12 GC.

13 Also, I want to assure you that in
14 the future problems have been with a lot of
15 minority bonding. And I was also told that
16 the development was going to take care of the
17 bonding for the minorities, so that won't be
18 an issue when it comes to minorities getting
19 contracts. So I am hoping and praying that
20 all the things that I was told that they are
21 going to do for the contractors and also for
22 the people of the Village of Hempstead, that
23 they do what they say they are going to do.

24 And he said put him to the test, and
25 I am hoping that the test that we are putting

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2 him to will follow through and everybody will
3 be happy.

4 Also, I want to say that a lot of
5 businesses coming into the Village of
6 Hempstead is good for Hempstead because taxes
7 is so crazy in the Village of Hempstead. I
8 bought my house in 1986. When I bought my
9 house in 1986, I was paying \$3,800 a year for
10 taxes. Now my taxes is \$15,000 a year. So I
11 am hoping that not only we bringing business
12 into the Village of Hempstead, but I am hoping
13 that the business we bring to the Village of
14 Hempstead is that they are going to pay taxes
15 so it will lower the taxes in the Village of
16 Hempstead. And still we are paying the taxes
17 for businesses just to bring them in here.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. FORDE: Marion Terry.

20 MS. TERRY: Good evening.

21 I am Marion, M-A-R-I-O-N, Terry,
22 T-E-R-R-Y. I live at 155 Greenwich Street in
23 Hempstead.

24 As a 55-year resident of Nassau and a
25 42-year resident of Hempstead, it is really

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2 exciting to see the possibility that Hempstead
3 will once again be the hub. But I hope that
4 the project will be carried out in such a way
5 that we will all benefit and that it won't be
6 fraud perpetrated against the people of
7 Hempstead. And we have to have a lot faith
8 and trust in you that you will do what you are
9 saying you are going to do.

10 Some of the suggestions that I wanted
11 put forth have already been made, but I think
12 they are worth repeating. One of them is we
13 need additional classroom space, we must get
14 rid of portability. Our children are going to
15 go out in the world to compete on a global
16 basis and we are not going -- they are not
17 going to be prepared if we don't have an
18 atmosphere that is conducive to learning. So
19 the portables really must go and a way must be
20 found to add classroom space.

21 And then to me, there is a quality of
22 life issue, and that would include our parks.
23 I think all of our parks need to be upgraded.
24 The Brierley, Lincoln, Mirschel, and so forth,
25 all upgraded so that our children, especially

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2 the younger ones, have a place to play and
3 parents with toddlers have a place to take
4 their children. I think perhaps it would good
5 idea to put community center at Mirschel Park
6 where you could have a meeting space, you
7 could have workshops, educational programs,
8 cultural programs, and just to make people
9 proud that they live in this kind of
10 environment where it is safe, it is uplifting,
11 nurturing. And this may seem like a minor
12 issue, but it really isn't. If you look
13 around at other communities, you will see they
14 have those kind of amenities, so I hope you
15 put that into your plan.

16 And we will be watching you.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. FORDE: Lindell Ray.

19 MS. RAY: Good evening.

20 My name is Lindell Ray, 173 Hilton
21 Avenue.

22 The remarks that I am going to make
23 are about the CBA process and also one or two
24 issues that I would like to see included in
25 the CBA. So if you just bear with me, give me

1 Proceedings

2 a little bit of time, I want to get through my
3 remarks.

4 This project is about transforming
5 our common area that we all share with one
6 another. This gives -- this project gives
7 potential to help with more than just a
8 segment of the community. We could all gain
9 something if we approach the process with
10 interest of all the stakeholders in mind. It
11 is still my hope that this development process
12 and project can facilitate the start of a
13 transformation for the community rather than a
14 fix. Fix covers over a break. A
15 transformation lifts the cover out of the
16 wound and starts the healing process.

17 The problems I believe we face as a
18 community require more remediation than any
19 new building, job or housing subsidy can ever
20 cure. But working together we can address
21 some of disunity and apathy that has helped to
22 bring us to this point.

23 Even the problems we face that have
24 been caused by external forces, and there have
25 been many, could not have done as much damage

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2 to the community if the connection between
3 family members, ethnic groups, neighbors,
4 leadership and institutions had been stronger
5 and not so easily divided against themselves.
6 Patching over a broken place still lives a
7 broken foundation covered over with a pretty
8 exterior but still weak and out of balance.
9 You put enough pressure on that broken place,
10 it breaks again.

11 I would like to see a move beyond the
12 stage of disunity and really become a
13 community that respects the difference but can
14 still think bigger and bolder than our
15 personal needs permit. This process of
16 developing a Community Benefits Agreement, I
17 believe can be an important part of that
18 process if we approach the tasks interested in
19 developing an agreement that tries to find
20 some benefit for all community stakeholders
21 and prevents some from gaining by placing
22 others at a disadvantage.

23 Those people who enter this process
24 bent on only getting something for themselves
25 are working to fix themselves but not help

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2 transform the community. In the end, that
3 mentality will only lead us back to where we
4 are now. In the end, no matter what is
5 promised in the agreement if it is fixed and
6 growing cost for the community, the
7 responsibility for it is going to be spread
8 around and shared by everyone. All residents
9 are investors who seek subsidies beyond what
10 the community of taxpayers can afford to
11 support condemn us to fate as do all those who
12 care little for the fate of those who might be
13 dislocated by a development plan that ignores
14 their vulnerability.

15 With that in mind, I would like to
16 put my taxpayer hat on and ask that the
17 agreement include some provision for ensuring
18 that 100 percent of any new revenue that the
19 Village government gains after it covers its
20 cost of servicing this new development and new
21 residence must go to reducing tax burdens for
22 all taxpayers. To ensure accountability, the
23 government would agree, and I am saying this
24 with the full understanding that the developer
25 does not have control over this, but since the

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2 government representatives as the lead agency
3 will be signatories on this agreement, I hope
4 we can find some way of incorporating this in,
5 to ensure accountability the government would
6 agree to supply the public with a financial
7 statement on at least a semiannual basis that
8 shows where the new revenue above operating
9 costs have been directed. This may not be a
10 traditional component of the CBAs, and I have
11 looked at many of them, but in our case
12 setting up situation that gives no relief to
13 existing taxpayers can only hurt the success
14 of the project.

15 I would also like to see am money set
16 aside to nurture budding entrepreneurs from
17 Hempstead Village that would support the cost
18 of space training and business incubator
19 center or system which would have the mission
20 of preparing local businessmen and women to
21 take their rightful place in the local
22 Hempstead business economy that we are trying
23 to develop as soon as they develop enough
24 skill and capital.

25 I am saying all this because I love

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2 Hempstead, I want to see it really do well,
3 and I think why not benefit from the mistakes
4 of others? All of the CBAs that were done by
5 groups disunified, they did not prove to be
6 successful. So I am just asking that you keep
7 that in mind and that all of us keep our
8 differences tabled, but remember we either
9 rise together or we sink together.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. FORDE: Najee Jeremiah.

12 MR. JEREMIAH: How is everybody
13 doing? I want to first just acknowledge
14 everybody for you all coming. That shows me
15 you have a lot of concern in your community
16 and the future of what you want it to turn
17 into.

18 I think this CBA deal is --

19 MR. FORDE: State your name and
20 address.

21 MR. JEREMIAH: I'm sorry. My name
22 is Najee Jeremiah, 81 Long Beach Road,
23 Hempstead, New York.

24 And I really think this CBA is an
25 opportunity to keep the money from local

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2 consumers inside of Hempstead and attract new
3 people.

4 And I have two major points, one from
5 an economic perspective, one from a personal
6 perspective. I was a young professional, and
7 I really don't like to leave anything up for
8 chance. I like to make sure that if I invest
9 in something, it is really going to prosper,
10 so I really think that this CBA is really
11 something that could be a blessing. And I
12 don't think it can fail, because if you look
13 at the economics, Nassau County on average is
14 wealthy county and an average family household
15 income is like around \$99,000. And also in
16 2008 Nassau County was the 11th richest county
17 in the country. And I think that is really
18 significant.

19 And also before I would say the
20 Roosevelt Field Mall was constructed,
21 Hempstead Village was doing very well for a
22 very long time. And with this CBA, I think it
23 is a chance to really start a new beginning to
24 really revive our history.

25 And the suggestion that I would have

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2 is too keep the history of Hempstead really in
3 mind and pay homage to what this is about,
4 what Hempstead Incorporated Village really
5 means.

6 And from a personal level, I was a
7 kid, being only 20, I think my opinion is
8 important. And by the looks of Hempstead
9 right now and Long Island right now, I would
10 say there really isn't anything interesting
11 Hempstead in Long Island. And also Charles
12 Wong, he is the owner of the Islanders, and he
13 is trying to find a new place to move the
14 Islanders, and I am not sure where he is going
15 to move, maybe Rhode Island. That can really
16 hurt the community, so I think this can be
17 something that could be the biggest thing for
18 Long Island in general. If you are investing
19 that much money into it, I hear \$2 billion,
20 that's really impressive. And I really think
21 if you can get this done and get this thing
22 rolling. Many streets really needs --
23 Hempstead really needs help and I would say a
24 lot of young professionals like myself really
25 need help. So if you start this, you can

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2 certainly pass me the torch and people like me
3 the torch and we can keep it running.

4 And that's pretty much it.

5 MR. FORDE: Leona Baum.

6 MS. BAUM: Good evening, friends,
7 neighbors, fellow residents. And good
8 evening, ladies and gentlemen of the panel.

9 I am one lady and a whole lot of
10 gentlemen. I had to make that point. And
11 again, Mr. Chairman, to put me up after a
12 20-year-old handsome guy. And I made this
13 point yesterday at a redistricting hearing,
14 that I was born three years before Nassau
15 County was chartered, so it is not fair but I
16 will do my best.

17 When our chairman gave his opening
18 address, I think he forgot to mention the
19 Chamber of Commerce, and I want to take the
20 opportunity as past president to invite you to
21 the meeting that we are having on August 15th.
22 It will be in the library. And we are
23 inviting the entire business community, all
24 stores, we hope to get fliers into all stores,
25 whether you speak Korean, English, Spanish or

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2 whatever, and try to tell people what we think
3 as a Chamber, because we are the Chamber.

4 The opportunities are going to be
5 available to the local businesses and give
6 them clue as to how to begin to put themselves
7 in line to participate if this development,
8 Mr. Monti, ever actually takes place. I have
9 been speaking at these hearings now for
10 decades and from what I understand, we will be
11 fooling around with this project for at least
12 another decade. But fooling around now should
13 be bringing money into this Village and maybe
14 that's why we have so many people who don't
15 live here and who are organizers coming in to
16 take a look at us because we are going to have
17 money, and that's what everybody is about. So
18 anyway I want to invite everybody to come, it
19 is 5:30 to 6:30 on August 15th at the library,
20 it should be interesting.

21 The other thing, I had an idea, and
22 somebody mentioned Hempstead being a
23 destination for something that would
24 interesting and skirted around the point that
25 I want to make. I had opportunity to talk to

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2 Bud Harelson, if anybody is old enough to
3 remember Bud as a two World Series winner for
4 the Mets in the old days. He still looks very
5 young, he's now part owner of the Ducks. I
6 had an opportunity to meet with him. The
7 Ducks won't be coming here, but he felt there
8 could be an opportunity here in Hempstead, all
9 you need to building a stadium is seven to
10 nine acres. That's very small in terms of a
11 piece of our map. And we could build a
12 stadium, baseball stadium, the kids could play
13 soccer if they want to, but our kids, no
14 matter who they are, play both games. I say
15 see it because I live across the street from
16 Mirschel Park, so I would like to see that
17 happen.

18 I sent my proposal to Don Monti --
19 not to Don Monti, I sent it to Sean and to
20 Brandon, I got no response, not a word, not
21 even I got your proposal. And I think it is
22 worth opening dialogue with somebody.

23 What Mr. Harelson told me to do is go
24 back and talk to the developer, first of all,
25 see if we have land and if it is feasible but

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2 it would be a destination and you can get here
3 by train, you can get here by bus, the major
4 arteries all come to Hempstead, and so it is
5 not so off the wall as it might sound.

6 There is another proposal I had which
7 I can't find on here. That's good, because I
8 am finished anyway. But I am totally in favor
9 of this project. But what I want to see
10 happen is enough of the PR, enough of the
11 public relations, enough of the hearings,
12 let's go to work. I am on the jobs committee
13 with Reverend Benjamin. As chairman we
14 have -- of course all the stuff you bring up
15 to show us, of course, we are doing all that.
16 We do live in the world, whoever is interested
17 in pushing that forward.

18 So, again, the lady before me who
19 spoke said let's work together instead of at
20 cross purposes.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. FORDE: Juan Escudero.

23 MR. ESCUDERO: Good evening, CBA
24 members. My name is Juan, J-U-A-N, Escudero,
25 E-S-C-U-D-E-R-O.

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2 I am a member of the coalition. I
3 represent the businesses. The address is 115
4 Main Street. I don't know how many business
5 owners are right here, but this is my topic
6 number one. And I worry a lot about business,
7 because business, I think, it is very
8 important. If you don't have business in one
9 town, the town is a ghost town. I don't know
10 how many people have businesses here, but I
11 would like to know how many.

12 Only three people. I would like to
13 know how many people are working for you? You
14 can't answer, right. Okay, I have five people
15 from town working right here. There are about
16 100 to 130 businesses in town, all those
17 businesses have people working in town.
18 That's why I am here, to try to get good a
19 deal in the CBA, because the deal they made a
20 30 percent, 35 percent jobs socks people when
21 construction starts doing right here all
22 businesses have to move. A lot of people
23 working in the business, where are those
24 people going to go if the business goes out of
25 town, how are they going to get a job? We are

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2 not thinking about people working in business,
3 we are thinking about they don't have a job
4 now, they can apply for jobs but the people
5 working in business, they are not also apply
6 for because they are already have it. This is
7 my worry.

8 I believe everybody right here they
9 try to make a deal with the mouth. I don't
10 believe in words. I believe in paper, signed,
11 ,sealed, stamped, legalized and notarized.
12 This is only way I can believe we are going to
13 be safe with every deal we can get right here.
14 It is good to get the town alive with more
15 people, more business, but we have to be
16 secure, we have to protect our people right
17 here in town. We can't leave them without
18 good protection. That's why you are here,
19 gentlemen, to try to find a good deal, a good
20 agreement of the deal.

21 So, please, think about it, not for
22 us because we are old, think for the children,
23 for the future. Because the children is our
24 future. The children can be working for us.
25 We have to do something good for them to get a

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2 good deal, good house, good school. This is
3 what I believe.

4 Thank you very much and have a good
5 night.

6 MR. FORDE: Dan Oppenheimer.
7 Gina Parker.

8 MS. PARKER: Good evening, everyone.
9 Please excuse my back.

10 My name is Gina Hill Slater Parker.
11 I am a fifth generation New Yorker and I am
12 very excited and proud that we have this
13 agreement in front of us and a significant
14 construction opportunity that is going to
15 develop new housing and mixed use properties
16 here in the Village of Hempstead.

17 I come to you twofold, Gina Hill
18 Slater Parker, president of Black Women
19 Enterprises, 730 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead, New
20 York, so I am invested, I am a stakeholder.
21 We have a not-for-profit corporation here for
22 over 20 years. BWE's bottom line is we are
23 all about increasing small business technical
24 resources, business growth and development.
25 But we were founded with the assistance of our

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2 current governor's father, Mario Cuomo, and
3 Assemblywoman Earlene Hooper, to increase
4 private sector and public sector procurement
5 for small businesses. We are experts in MBE,
6 WBE development. When I look through the
7 agreement --

8 And by the way, this is --

9 MR. FORDE: That's not our
10 agreement, ma'am, that's the one that's passed
11 out.

12 MS. PARKER: When I looked through
13 the draft that was passed out and circulated,
14 I think this is an exceptional proposal by the
15 Village of Hempstead and the Community
16 Development Agency under the leadership of
17 Mayor Wayne Hall and Claude Gooding and with
18 Renaissance Downtown and Urban America.

19 MR. FORDE: That's not the
20 agreement, ma'am.

21 MS. PARKER: I understand.

22 Well, in this particular agreement in
23 circulation, one of the things it's proposing
24 is a lot of employment opportunities, and
25 everybody has been mentioning opportunities to

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2 employ people first and foremost in the
3 Village and then the surrounding
4 neighborhoods. I think that is something that
5 should be considered. And hopefully the
6 distinguished panel would consider those
7 things, and the aggressive goals that are
8 included in this.

9 But one of the things that they talk
10 about is MBE WBE utilization. I am here to
11 tell you right now, we only have a handful of
12 certified MBE WBE firms here in the Village of
13 Hempstead. So it will be very necessary to
14 have some kind of support system to get small
15 businesses business ready, to get them
16 qualified as MBE WBE and fast track that so
17 that they can participate on this significant
18 opportunity.

19 And that's where I stand.

20 REVEREND BENJAMIN: Do you have a
21 card?

22 MS. PARKER: Yes. You may have it.
23 Yes.

24 And I just want to say that I am a
25 former resident of Hempstead, my grandmother

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2 graduated from Hempstead High School back in
3 the '20s in Hempstead, she was married,
4 resided here. My parents courted here in
5 Hempstead, and for all I know, I could have
6 been conceived in Hempstead.

7 But I think this is significant and
8 these are the kinds of projects that we need
9 and a ten-year project is a significant
10 economic shot in the arm and really get some
11 great things going and great opportunities for
12 everyone.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. FORDE: Supreme Mathematics.

15 MR. MATHEMATICS: Good evening.

16 My name is Supreme Mathematics, I am
17 a resident of Hempstead. I have lived in
18 Hempstead for over 30 years. My children grew
19 up here. My grandchildren are here. And what
20 I want to say today is something very peaceful
21 and humble.

22 We passed out a draft because we have
23 tried to work with you guys in terms of giving
24 you the draft early on. All we want is to do
25 is give a good CBA to the community of

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2 Hempstead. Hempstead deserves something good.
3 We know you guys have worked at this very
4 diligently. All we ask is that the community
5 get an opportunity to look at this draft, make
6 their comments and bring it back, because we
7 believe the community should have input.

8 And that's all we are asking for. We
9 are not asking for something to hurt anybody.
10 All we are asking for is to make sure the
11 community of Hempstead gets the best of the
12 best of the best. That's all. That's all we
13 are asking for. We don't want to hurt nobody
14 financially. We don't nobody want pain and
15 suffering. We don't want to make nobody
16 downtrodden in Hempstead. All we want is a
17 beautiful home, a beautiful place to live, a
18 beautiful place to work at and that the
19 residents who have been here for 80 years,
20 because there are people, families here 80
21 years who are Hempstead residents who would
22 love to stay here. That's all we are asking
23 for you guys to do. Take this draft, read
24 this draft, study this draft, add onto it,
25 subtract from this draft.

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2 PANEL MEMBER: Shouldn't it be the
3 other way around?

4 MR. MATHEMATICS: It should have
5 been.

6 I don't think that we did anything
7 wrong here. This is the people's draft. This
8 is what the chairman asked for. This is what
9 we did. We have been working with you guys
10 ever since the beginning of the start. We
11 have never given anything more. We opened our
12 community to give input. We worked and got
13 over 3,000 signatures to get input. We worked
14 diligently to get input. We didn't just sit
15 at a meeting, we were in the streets, we
16 talked to people, we asked questions, we gave
17 benefit demonstrations, we gave opportunities
18 to come back and speak out. I talked to at
19 least of you five guys in a week's time, so
20 you know where I am coming from. It is not
21 like I am coming from a bad point of view. I
22 am only asking for the doable for the
23 community that I love.

24 I moved to Hempstead because I
25 enjoyed the parks, I enjoyed the recreation, I

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2 enjoyed the school system. When I came to
3 Hempstead over years 30 ago -- everybody who
4 lives in Hempstead for 30 years, raise their
5 hands. So they know what I am talking about.
6 They know what I am talking about. We want
7 downtown Hempstead to be downtown Hempstead.
8 We want to be able to shop here, live here and
9 work here.

10 So if anybody wants a copy of the
11 people's CBA, Community Benefits Agreement,
12 that we drafted, we have it on the website.
13 It is the people's CBA and it is BIT.LY, upper
14 case Hempstead CBA.

15 And we want to thank Hofstra
16 University for helping us get this draft.
17 Mike Haber did a wonderful job in helping us
18 out. We met diligently. I say this again, we
19 feel, as some of the members said, you guys
20 are people of integrity. We believe that. We
21 know if we give you the opportunity to hear
22 us, you will understand where we are coming
23 from as a people. That's all we are asking
24 for. Because the people we are talking about
25 protecting are all our friends, relatives and

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2 associates. They are not strangers, they are
3 not people foreign or they are not people
4 outside our parameter. Most of them represent
5 them, most of them they are our friends. It
6 is our job and our duty to do the right thing
7 by the people of the Village of Hempstead.

8 And I thank you.

9 Mr. Chairman, do you want our
10 petitions? We are tired of holding on to
11 this.

12 MR. FORDE: Kelvin Burchell.

13 MR. BURCHELL: Good evening, ladies
14 and gentlemen.

15 My name is Kelvin Burchell. I live
16 at 35 Kane Avenue, Hempstead.

17 I am a minority plumbing contractor
18 and I have been speaking to Jack Proffet for
19 the past few weeks and he has kept me informed
20 about what is going on behind the scenes that
21 I didn't know about, so I give some props to
22 Jack.

23 Also, I want to -- my concern, a
24 couple of my concerns are, I was advised that
25 we would be bonded as a minority business or

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2 small business so that we would be able to
3 participate in the job opportunities that will
4 be presented once this benefit agreement is
5 signed. I am concerned about that.

6 Also, the other thing I was told that
7 there were at least \$625 millions that were
8 allotted to small minority business. That's
9 one of my concerns also.

10 But to be short, I am definitely for
11 the project, I want to see this project go
12 forward. It will be beneficial to the
13 community as a whole. It will be beneficial
14 on a smaller scale to young people. We want
15 to see the young people that are in the street
16 that are willing and able to make themselves
17 better men and women through this project and
18 give them this opportunity.

19 You know, as small contractors, we
20 were -- most of the time we are just set aside
21 and looked over and stepped upon, but this
22 time I hope that the parties that are involved
23 with this process make it fair for us at least
24 this time around, be a trailblazer in doing
25 the right thing for us as small contractors.

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2 That's all I have to say.

3 MR. FORDE: Oscar Barriga?

4 MR. BARRIGA: Good evening, ladies
5 and gentlemen. My name is Oscar Barriga, I
6 work at 134 Jackson Street. And I live at 123
7 Martin Avenue. I am president of the
8 Hempstead EOC Soccer Program. I practically
9 was raised in Hempstead. I went to elementary
10 school, middle school, I went to Hempstead
11 High School and I graduated from Oneonta State
12 University. I play soccer, I play
13 professional and I promised myself I will come
14 back to the Village to help our children and I
15 really strongly am very committed to the
16 sport. And I right now at this point we have
17 three close to 300 kids, and really, I am so
18 concerned with our youth. Our youth, we need
19 to really -- every concern is important, but
20 our youth is also important to keep these kids
21 out of the streets. We hardly have any
22 fields, any recreation for these children and
23 they need that to keep them out of the street.
24 Please, I beg you, put this into this project.
25 Maybe -- whatever we have is something. Right

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2 now we like soccer, but it is not just about
3 soccer, it is football, lacrosse, baseball.
4 It is about all our youth. This is one of the
5 -- really, I have never seen a village with
6 such a little space with fields and
7 recreation. We barely have this gym packed
8 until 9:00, 10:00 at night, we can't even use
9 it in the winter, there is no space.

10 Please, that's my concern, put that
11 into your project. And I really am fully with
12 the project, I can't wait to start. Include
13 this, please.

14 Thank you so much for listening to me
15 and God bless you all.

16 MR. FORDE: Shelly Brazley.

17 MS. BRAZLEY: Good evening.

18 My name is Shelly Brazley and I live
19 at 87 Manor Avenue here in Hempstead.

20 I am concerned -- I am so glad I came
21 behind this gentleman from the EOC because I
22 have heard a lot tonight, but we have to
23 include the children of this community. We
24 have a school system that Newsday reports has
25 a 28 percent graduation rate. I hear all this

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2 mix use. I hear about units that you plan on
3 bringing. We need to know how many units that
4 is. We need to know how many families it is.
5 We need to know how many more schools we will
6 need to educate our children so more than 28
7 percent will graduate. Who is going to move
8 into a community where we have schools with
9 trailers that clutter the front? Who is going
10 to move into a community where we have people
11 getting shot every other week because our
12 children are not educated? Who is going to do
13 that? So my concern as a resident of
14 Hempstead is what about our children? What
15 do we have planned?

16 I work at 40 Main Street. The
17 children come with their skateboards every day
18 in the parking lot to play, in the parking lot
19 to play. The parking lot that is overrun with
20 homeless people, urine, we don't clean up what
21 we already have. It is absolutely deplorable
22 and our children come to play there.

23 So I heard a lot tonight. I heard
24 about 625 million set aside for minority and
25 women-owned businesses, disadvantaged

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2 businesses, I guess, small businesses. Who is
3 going to have oversight of that? The funds,
4 this \$625 million, is this private funds, is
5 this federal funds, is this state funds?
6 Where is the money coming from and who is
7 going to have oversight to ensure that these
8 small businesses really do get this money?

9 The bonding, really, we really need
10 that in writing. That's what I do, and so to
11 tell people that they are going skewed from
12 bonding, we need that in writing.

13 So there are some issues, and it is
14 fabulous on paper, but I have been living here
15 almost all of my 55 years and I have seen a
16 lot. I was educated in this community, I
17 played in this community, I was a cheerleader
18 for the mid football, we practiced right here
19 in Kennedy Park. The children here when you
20 look at them, there is no life in their eyes,
21 they are disappointed with us, we failed them.

22 So I ask you when you make your plans
23 to plan for our future.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. FORDE: We are going to take a

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2 five-minute break and then we will resume.

3 (Recess taken.)

4 MR. FORDE: We are ready to begin
5 again. Can everyone please take their seat so
6 that we can resume. Thank you.

7 Aaron Carney.

8 MR. CARNEY: Good evening, everyone.

9 Can you hear me?

10 My name is Aaron Carney. I am a
11 lifelong resident of Hempstead, I live at 27
12 Casten Street, which is right across the
13 street.

14 And I am a young person. I was born
15 here and raised here, educated here. I have
16 lived here all my life. I had fun here, swam
17 in a pool for most of my life. And now I have
18 the opportunity, after returning from school,
19 to work here in the Village. And I have had
20 the opportunity to witness the coming together
21 of people, of everyone in this community, and
22 I think that a project like this, it affords
23 young people like myself, young professionals
24 young, entrepreneurs something to look forward
25 to here back at home, so that when we go away

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2 to school and experience the wonders of the
3 world, that we can see that here and have a
4 basis is to propel ourselves into the
5 commercial world and business world and have a
6 competitive spirit in us and just have that
7 all from this community, from working here,
8 from having fun here so that we can see the
9 potential in everything that we have in the
10 Village of Hempstead.

11 So I have been speaking with a few of
12 my fellow young people and it is just
13 something to dream to be great, but we don't
14 see ourselves being great here in Hempstead, I
15 don't think. We want to see ourselves great
16 somewhere else. We want to realize our dream
17 somewhere else. Many kids that go to school,
18 they relocate and stay there and then they
19 build their dreams out there and are very
20 successful. And we want to be successful here
21 in Hempstead and we want to see Hempstead rise
22 and just become as vibrant as it used to be.
23 I hear all the stories, I have seen the
24 pictures of downtown back in '50s and '60s
25 when my parents first came here and I want to

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2 see that again. I want to be able to
3 experience that also.

4 So I just I believe that this
5 committee, this panel in front of me has the
6 power to ensure that interest of Hempstead and
7 all its people will be kept true and will be
8 realized through this project, and that
9 throughout the project there will be a very
10 diverse and integrated need and it will
11 continue to be that way as we have seen it.

12 Hempstead has changed over the years
13 but it is a melting pot of many, many
14 different cultures and, you know, I am
15 speaking all over the place, but these are all
16 the things that I have. This is my first time
17 speaking. I believe this can be great thing,
18 it has a lot of potential and can bring out
19 potential of the people in the community.

20 So thank you for your time.

21 MR. FORDE: Vera Draden.

22 MS. DRADEN: Good evening.

23 My name is Vera Draden, 208 Rose
24 Avenue, Hempstead, New York.

25 I am a member of the Baptist Church

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2 and I have been a Hempstead resident for 55
3 years. My children grew up here. I have a
4 son retired from police department here in
5 Hempstead.

6 But right now I am begging, we need
7 something for our young children, they have
8 nothing to do. My grandkids, they are bored,
9 they have nothing to do here. And I belong to
10 the MWBE with Nassau County. I own A business
11 here in Hempstead, I need it to grow. If you
12 are all going to do anything, I am sure that
13 that business, I will have security. If you
14 need any security, I have security business
15 now. So I am looking and I am hoping for this
16 business, if it is to help all of us. Not
17 just the minority black people but for
18 everybody here. I am looking for help for all
19 of you.

20 As long as you are saying, I would
21 like to see something to know you are going to
22 do this, I don't mind. I am all for it. We
23 also have business with Dash and Dan Taxi, all
24 individually owned. So I do see that if
25 anything were to come up here in downtown

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2 Hempstead, that we could get more business
3 with the cab business and everything, but I am
4 more interested in security.

5 So I would like you all to think
6 about everybody, the jobs for all of us that
7 need a job. That's about all I want to say.

8 And I had for you, you not against
9 you.

10 MR. FORDE: Thank you.

11 Mario Herrera.

12 AUDIENCE: Mr. Chairman, Mario left.
13 He had to go to work.

14 MR. FIGUEROA: Martino had to go to
15 work. He is a business owner here in
16 Hempstead. He owns a restaurant and he just
17 wanted to state as a business owner that he is
18 in favor of the project.

19 MR. FORDE: Maria Lopez.

20 Henry Holly, Jr.

21 MR. HOLLY: Good evening, everyone on
22 the panel.

23 I am a long-time resident of
24 Hempstead. I was born and raised here, fourth
25 generation, and I do support the project. You

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2 are charged with an awesome responsibility.

3 My address is 20 Sterling Place,
4 Hempstead, New York.

5 It is an awesome responsibility you
6 guys have in front of you. There are as you
7 heard, a lot of long-time residents, not just
8 homeowners, business owners, et cetera.

9 One of the things that I say is no
10 matter what you decide, protect the people.
11 Protect the people, not just the ones that
12 have but the ones that have not. I understand
13 there is a lot of floating drafts around.
14 Some drafts that have been put together. I
15 don't think we should discard them. Read
16 them, take what you can from them and, of
17 course, try to incorporate some of their
18 findings of what you ultimately decide. But
19 at the end of the day, come up with the best
20 that you can come up with. If it were your
21 own, come up with best that you can come up
22 with, but remember the people first.

23 Have a good evening.

24 MR. FORDE: Thank you.

25 Mateo Flores.

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2 MR. FLORES: Good evening, everyone.

3 My name is Mateo Flores. I am the
4 director of the Hempstead Community Action
5 Program EOC in Hempstead. I am here just to
6 let you know that EOC has been working with
7 the community for over 40 some years and
8 almost everyone that I have seen has something
9 to do with EOC one way or the another.

10 We have submitted a wish list, and
11 one of the things is that this community, all
12 you hear is most of the stuff that you see on
13 news really getting bad. But that might be 1
14 percent or 2 percent. Nobody talks about 90
15 percent. The EOC has been a leader in this
16 community in working with youth.

17 I heard one of my staff talking,
18 which is Oscar Barriga, he was kind of modest,
19 he didn't talk about that he has won 94
20 championship in Long Island, in New York
21 State, out of state, with the soccer program,
22 and when we talk about that, that's history.
23 And the partnership that we have with the
24 Village has been great, but the fact that our
25 kids don't have a place to go, we just don't

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2 have a place to go when it comes to winter.
3 Do you see a place where to go really? With
4 magnitude of kids that we have in this
5 community? Soccer, EOC and I want to make
6 sure soccer is one of the main youth programs
7 that the EOC runs, a community council, after
8 school programs, county youth counseling, you
9 name it, martial arts program, and I can go on
10 and on. But as this community has become
11 really a diverse community, we need to
12 integrate ourselves in working very closely
13 with Don Ryan, Mr. White, with football,
14 basketball, our kids play basketball, play
15 lacrosse, you name it. But the fact is the
16 venues in the community are extremely limited.

17 So I want to acknowledge that Mr.
18 Monti has supported our programs in the past
19 but beyond that, we have to look at the bigger
20 picture, that the kids need to go to college,
21 and for many of us here, we cannot afford to
22 send our kids to college. We found through
23 sports we can send our kids to college. I can
24 tell you that just this year we sent five kids
25 to college with full scholarships because of

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2 sports. And academics five, and that's just
3 one part of our youth.

4 Then we have about 100 more that are
5 coming up that will be to graduate, and the
6 biggest question comes up where can we have
7 our kids busy?

8 So in your project, I hear people
9 demanding or begging, I am demanding, that you
10 need to really pay attention that if you are
11 really sitting here, you must bring something
12 to the table. Because if you are just sitting
13 here to look good, it doesn't help us.

14 I am Hispanic, I have been working in
15 this community over 25 years and I have been
16 dedicated to work with the youth. We are too
17 old already. We went to college, we did what
18 we have to do. What about our grandkids, our
19 kids?

20 So I hope that you really listen to
21 many of us that I have heard here, let's
22 invest in our community, and a great project
23 is wonderful, but beyond that in our break
24 here I went across, isn't that great to see
25 our kids playing basketball that they have a

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2 little place, a tiny place to play. What
3 about the 100 or 200 percent of kids that are
4 not here, where are they? So I am demanding
5 that we look into this and that the wish list
6 that we gave you for parks of the Village to
7 really pay close attention to because if not,
8 I will bring 200 to 300 people to tell you
9 that we are demanding.

10 MR. FORDE: Can we have this wish
11 list you are speaking about?

12 MR. FLORES: I don't have it here.
13 I understand George Sandler has given that
14 wish list. If not, I will make sure that you
15 have it. Our commissioner is here. I am sure
16 if it is not, believe me tomorrow by 9:30 you
17 will have it.

18 AUDIENCE: He has.

19 MR. FLORES: Okay, thank you very
20 much, I appreciate it.

21 MR. FORDE: Sara Mitchell.

22 MS. MITCHELL: Good evening,
23 everybody.

24 My name is Sara Mitchell. I live at
25 115 Grove Street.

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2 I really want to focus on the CBA
3 mostly and not so much the project, because I
4 am for the project and the project is going to
5 be completed.

6 So my first question is: How can
7 this project truly benefit our community if
8 the issues currently perplexing our community
9 are not addressed? Why does it matter if we
10 have department stores and housing complexes
11 that the majority of us cannot afford? I
12 think it is erroneous to think that we can't
13 foster economic development and community
14 growth at the same time. It can be done. If
15 our education system and they are substandard
16 facilities currently in the education system
17 are not invested in, if inclusionary housing
18 with income tiers is not stipulated in this
19 CBA, by income tiers I mean 60, 70, 80, 90,
20 100, 110, 120 and 130, not 80 through 130. 80
21 through means you have the option of targeting
22 the top echelon, which is 130, and you will
23 still be in compliance with what is in the
24 CBA. If you stipulate that you have to have
25 80 and 90 and 100 and up, 110, that's what we

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2 want. We want strict compliance. We don't
3 want substantial compliance, we want strict
4 inclusionary housing.

5 The master development reads that you
6 guys are making continuous best efforts. I
7 don't want a continuous best effort to create
8 a CBA with the things that the community
9 needs. I want certainty that the needs of my
10 community will be codified in this document.
11 And it is through a strict compliance
12 component, which we mentioned, these
13 developers don't have the incentive to make
14 sure that everything that we want to see is in
15 the CBA. They don't live here. We are the
16 ones that have to live here after the
17 development is going on so we are the ones
18 that have to make sure everything in the CBA
19 is strictly adhered to. That's why I want to
20 make sure there also in the CBA a compliance
21 component.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. FORDE: Kent Mills.

24 MR. MILLS: Good evening to the
25 panel.

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2 My name is Kent Mills. I am a member
3 of the National Urban League in Hempstead.
4 Our address is 50 Clinton Street, Hempstead.

5 I guess I am speaking as a member of
6 the urban league but also as a member who
7 lived in the area, who has had good times in
8 this area, who is a dad, worked in the area at
9 the middle school for few years.

10 I think this is an opportunity for
11 the community itself to improve its economic
12 situation and also, I guess, in dollars and
13 cents a way for more businesses, the more tax
14 revenue we can bring into the area to effect
15 certain things, education opportunities for
16 our youth in the area and also more
17 opportunities for our youth just to have
18 places for our youth. Because I think the
19 biggest thing I have been hearing from
20 everybody is the youth have to be considered
21 in the CBA.

22 I am personally for the project, for
23 the CBA, but I want to make sure the youth are
24 kept involved, people are kept involved
25 because, as they said behind us, after this is

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2 said and done, we have to make sure that this
3 works. So that's my thoughts.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. FORDE: Caprice Ryan.

6 MS. RYAN: Forgive me for being late.

7 I was at a meeting concerning our special
8 education needs students.

9 These are things that we have to look
10 at. I don't want Renaissance to think that we
11 are per se against anything. I am not
12 personally against anything, but I speak to
13 you in regard --

14 MR. FORDE: You have to state your
15 name and address.

16 MS. RYAN: Caprice Ryan, 29 Caroline
17 Avenue, Hempstead, New York.

18 I am not against this project. I
19 want to make sure that -- I have gone to their
20 website and I see what they are trying to do,
21 but what is concerning this CBA, many of you
22 live here in the community, I think all of you
23 live here in the community. My concern is
24 that we don't want to build these structures
25 and then, one, we can't fill them or if we

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2 fill them we are not a mixed community. We
3 tilt the paradigm to a point where we don't
4 live here anymore.

5 I don't mind sharing the community.
6 I think we all benefit from having a mixed
7 community. But the problem that I see is that
8 when we see a mixed income, I want you to
9 research the Corporate Drive, you as the CPA,
10 to look into the Corporate Drive development.
11 When they built that development, they did a
12 mixed income. They said they were going to
13 look into low-income housing, it was supposed
14 to be a mix of low incomes and senior
15 citizens. What they did was they maybe put
16 two low-income housing and the rest was senior
17 citizens, which meant that not too many of us
18 live there and the rest were senior citizens
19 and they weren't our senior citizens so we
20 need to be careful.

21 I am going to ask you as a CBA Board
22 to look into our future. I have a daughter
23 who left Long Island who lives in Brooklyn, I
24 don't want her in Brooklyn, I want her here
25 where she grew up. She has a very good credit

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2 score, I would love for this her to live in
3 the Renaissance project if possible, but we
4 need to make sure that we are targeting those
5 type of children. I would love to have third
6 and fourth generations to live in Hempstead.

7 My family has been here, my aunt was
8 one of the first female matrons. They didn't
9 call women police officers right then. She
10 carried a nightstick. She was fierce with a
11 nightstick and men feared her in Hempstead
12 with that nightstick. We have a legacy here
13 and we don't want to get rid of the legacy. I
14 think when we talked about mixed income let
15 put a number on each one of them. Let's say a
16 percentage for low income. A percentage for
17 senior citizens and a percentage for mixed
18 income. Let's not group everything together
19 because then it creates what we call
20 loopholes. We needs to be careful of
21 loopholes.

22 In addition to that, we talk about
23 roller skating rinks and that kind stuff. I
24 think that's great but let's create that
25 community around our schools. If we create

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2 that and make the atmosphere around our
3 schools where our kids want to go and have an
4 atmosphere where they can learn and have fun,
5 I think that would be more preferable.

6 You, as the CBA Board, I am going to
7 ask to you to put your money together and go
8 around to different areas and look at places
9 that did these kind developments, personally
10 travel there and see how they are working out.
11 Are they working out? Are they filling these
12 developments? I don't want this to fail. We
13 don't want this to fail. We live here. We
14 don't want anything more on the backs of the
15 taxpayers.

16 The problem is we built, we have done
17 things and done things, and it is constantly
18 left on the backs of the taxpayers. No more.
19 I can't afford it. I don't want to sell my
20 house. I can't sell my house. The value is
21 not what the mortgage is. So I think at this
22 point you as the CBA committee or Board, I ask
23 you let's look into those things. I don't
24 hear much about the schools. And I know
25 Mr. Bligen knows a lot about our schools. A

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2 few of you know about our schools. Let's look
3 into creating an atmosphere that will benefit
4 our children, let's don't make them statistics
5 any longer, don't let them be free labor to
6 people buying in companies waiting for our
7 kids to go to prison and be free labor. Let's
8 teach them how to be business owners, not only
9 to work for somebody, but let's have incentive
10 in the different CBAs that Renaissance can say
11 we will have a component. Since Hempstead is
12 our pilot project where we can into other
13 minority schools or areas, let's take the
14 people from Hempstead, the young people from
15 Hempstead, let's let them be entrepreneurs,
16 let's have a special area in the Renaissance
17 project for Hempstead kids where we can raise
18 them up and let's have an area in our company
19 for our Hempstead kids to teach them. We have
20 academies that have areas that they can put
21 into their company to benefit our children.
22 We have too many smart kids in Hempstead that
23 can be utilized in this particular area. You
24 guys use your power to strengthen the
25 community and to strengthen our children. We

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2 have to say enough is enough, there is too
3 many good brains on this board that can make
4 it happen. What happens to dead weight.

5 I want you guys too look at the dead
6 weight. If you have dead weight on this
7 committee, get rid of them and replace them.
8 I don't know how many people are on this
9 committee, but if they have not shown up to
10 these meetings and you find that they are
11 weighing you down, whatever the process is to
12 get rid of them, you as committees have
13 integrity, integrity, to get rid of them. If
14 they are not doing their job, get rid of them.
15 Enough is enough. We are tired of the same
16 old, same old. This is the 21st Century.
17 Each of us live here. If I see you on the
18 street, I will talk to you personally. I know
19 you all. I am asking you to do what is right.
20 You live here and you have to deal with me.

21 MR. FORDE: Is there anyone that
22 hasn't spoken who wants to say anything?

23 Are you a Hempstead resident?

24 MS. JOSEPH: Yes, I am.

25 MR. FORDE: Step up to the mic.

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2 MS. JOSEPH: My name is Theodora
3 Ulysse Joseph and I am a resident of 8 Myrtle
4 Avenue, Hempstead.

5 I graduated from Hempstead High
6 School. I went to the Boys and Girl Club here
7 on Washington. I went to the middle school.
8 I moved up here from Florida. And moving up
9 here is very different from Florida. You
10 know, the education system is very slower down
11 south, to my feelings. Graduating from
12 Hempstead in 2011, we didn't really have a big
13 class. The graduating rate is really low.

14 One of my schoolmates, Sara Mitchell,
15 we have common feelings, this is a time where
16 I didn't put a lot into this but it just the
17 emotions I want get out.

18 I feel like the kids are not driven
19 and they are not knowing what is going on with
20 the board members within their community. All
21 they know is what their parents tell them,
22 what's going on in the news, but don't know
23 what is happening with the stock market. They
24 don't know what is going on with the schools.
25 Everything is getting taken away and nothing

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2 is being given back. And I am very upset
3 because now kids are like: Hempstead, why
4 would we stay in Hempstead? What's in Garden
5 City? What's in Brooklyn? No one wants to
6 stay here. Everybody says Hempstead is whack,
7 there is nothing to do. Like everyone has
8 told you here, there is nothing to do. We
9 used have movie theaters. What happened? We
10 used to have recreation centers. What
11 happened?

12 Like I said, it is a very short term,
13 maybe the businesses did close down and I may
14 not know, but how come these kids don't know
15 what is going on? I feel like you should come
16 to the schools and speak to the kids
17 personally if you haven't already. Let them
18 know what is going on so they will feel
19 involved and not out of place. Do you know
20 what I mean, be a part of something. Come to
21 the games, support the kids.

22 Like a lot of them here, if they are
23 not active and not doing anything, they are on
24 the streets. Every other day I am hearing
25 someone getting shot on Terrace Avenue on D

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2 block, on the heights. Something is always
3 happening. So if we build these recreation
4 centers like she is speaking of and other
5 members are talking of, the kids will stay
6 busy, they will be driven, they will be mind
7 focused instead of being on the streets and
8 having nothing to do. Get these kids jobs
9 and they won't feel so out of place or I don't
10 have to do this. There is a not lot of
11 strong-minded kids like me and Sara and the
12 other gentleman who was speaking today. I am
13 not going to call them not smart minded, but
14 they are not driven, they are not focused.
15 They are into education isn't for me, I will
16 find money another way because this is whack.

17 I am going to keep this brief.

18 And also this is not just for the
19 board members. This is also to the parents as
20 well. We can't let the streets handle our
21 kids and let education handle our kids. We
22 have to start at home as well. Because there
23 are not many parents who are in our children's
24 lives. We can always blame the board members
25 but we have to blame ourselves as well. At

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2 the end of the day, we do look to you guys.
3 We do look to what is going to happen. We do
4 look to the future. Because I am 19 years
5 old, like I said, I only graduated a year ago.
6 I am very mind focused and I am very involved
7 in what is going on because I am going to be
8 the next taxpayer that will be paying taxes,
9 my money is going to be out of my mortgage.

10 I want to know what is going on. I
11 want to know what is going to happen. I want
12 to know what is in my community. And these
13 kids need to know the same. I am saying reach
14 out to us, reach out to the kids, because,
15 yes, we are speaking here, but how many youth
16 do you see here? How many parents and
17 children do you see coming together holding
18 hands, like we are here and this is our town,
19 we will not let anyone take over our town
20 because we have been here for generations.

21 So all I can say is let's try to get
22 the children involved as well, not just the
23 adults, because in the end children are who
24 are going to be the leaders and who are going
25 take your place, and if they don't know what

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2 is going on, I don't know what is going to
3 happen.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: All I am hearing
5 is very good but we truly have to do something
6 for our area here in Hempstead. We are losing
7 kids. I work for juvenile detention and every
8 day we have 13 to 14 kids in juvenile
9 detention. If we had a youth center, that
10 would help our kids, some of them, not all of
11 them, because we are losing too many falling
12 through cracks.

13 The program that I have asked a few
14 people is a good thing, it could help us as
15 taxpayers if we don't pass the tax only. When
16 we pass it on, we still pay. I know myself, I
17 heard one lady say she is trying to sell her
18 house is a hard thing because of the market,
19 the house ain't worth nothing, you ain't going
20 to get nothing. I truly think this program
21 can work if you cover all the areas. If you
22 get five or six areas, if you leave two or
23 three open, you can be in for a mess.

24 What I am saying is it can work but
25 the committee got to make sure that they cover

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2 all angles. If they don't cover all the
3 angles, it can be an absolute mess.

4 MR. LUCAS: Good evening.

5 I really wasn't going to speak
6 tonight.

7 My name is Reggie Lucas, 96
8 Broadfield Road, Hempstead, New York. I am
9 President of the Hempstead Coordinating
10 Council of Civic Associations.

11 One of things that I hadn't heard was
12 infrastructure, nobody said anything about
13 infrastructure, all right. We got money to
14 deal with the sewer, but what about rain and
15 stuff like that, water, how many water towers
16 are we going to build? How many water towers
17 do we need? Parking, you are supposed to
18 have one-and-a-half parking spaces for each
19 resident. If you are planning on having a
20 residence with 3,000 units, you are going to
21 need almost 6,000 parking spaces for the
22 units.

23 Now, you want people to come here and
24 shop, you need parking for people to come here
25 and shop. Roads, do we make roads wider or

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2 keep them the same way. These are things that
3 I am concerned with. So take that into
4 consideration.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. FORDE: We are open until 9:00,
7 but if you have additional comments you can go
8 through one of the other avenues. We are
9 letting people make an initial statement.

10 Is there anyone else that is a
11 resident that wishes to speak that hasn't
12 spoken already?

13 MR. HARKESS: Randy Harkess,
14 H-A-R-K-E-S-S.

15 You say you are building houses and I
16 know they built houses on Terrace Avenue, and
17 in my lifetime I have seen they have built
18 these luxury apartments, but they failed. I
19 hate to see you build apartments again and
20 they fail.

21 MS. LINCOLN: My name is Jean
22 Lincoln. I live at 11 Brickstone Court.

23 I've lived in this community for over
24 30 years. I purchased my home here over 30
25 years ago, and like someone said earlier, when

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2 I purchased my house, my taxes were \$1,100 a
3 year, if I remember correctly. I'm a senior
4 citizen, so my mind isn't as good as it used
5 to be, but I do know one thing, I want to talk
6 about all this money I pay now for nothing.
7 We are talking about building buildings. I
8 see a lot of empty buildings.

9 As many people, I came here from
10 Southern California, I am bilingual so I
11 taught bilingual southern California high
12 schools. I came here to work and see all the
13 buildings but I don't see anybody working with
14 the people and like so many people have said,
15 there is all this talk about building
16 something new, why don't we work with what we
17 have that's old like people said, why don't we
18 do something about the children.

19 I have never seen anything like I see
20 around the corner from my house on Surrey
21 Lane. Trailers for the children. The
22 children are the future. We are not growing
23 children to fill up Nassau County jails and
24 all these other jails they are building
25 upstate. So I don't know what is going on

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2 here, I just happen to drop in.

3 But I do know this: Our children are
4 the future and we don't need any more stores.
5 People don't have any money anyway. We need
6 to invest in these children so they can get
7 jobs so they don't have to stay at home with
8 their parents or hang out in the streets.

9 I have never seen a community that
10 doesn't have a Boys Club, a Girls Club, a
11 youth community center. We don't need no
12 malls. We have that big Roosevelt Field mall.
13 I can walk there. We need to invest in our
14 young people, because when I came here I came
15 with education. I came here with several
16 degrees. I didn't have to pay a fortune to go
17 to UCLA.

18 What I am saying now is I have
19 listened to everybody, and like I said, I
20 don't know what the CBA is, I don't know what
21 anything is. All I know is I bought a
22 beautiful home, it is still beautiful, but the
23 taxes, I don't know what I am paying taxes
24 for. Why is there -- why are kids not
25 graduating from school? I am a teacher. I

1 Proceedings

2 didn't teach for a living, but why aren't they
3 graduating? What are we producing?

4 I have a son, I used to tell him do
5 not create a job for anybody else. I am not
6 raising you for that. It is my job to see to
7 it that you get an education and I will
8 educate you.

9 So all I am saying is that all I know
10 is my money is gone, and a whole lot of it.
11 Like the guy said, my taxes are almost \$15,000
12 a year and I ain't getting nothing. When I
13 hear about snow, I fly to California because I
14 can do that, and I come back when it melts,
15 because they don't even shovel the streets,
16 they don't shovel the streets.

17 So like somebody else said, let's get
18 real here, we have enough buildings. We need
19 to invest in these people and these young
20 people. All I see here is a bunch of old
21 folks like me. I ain't calling you old, but
22 we need to see some youth here.

23 MS. RYAN: Something slipped my
24 mind. I should be given a courtesy if we have
25 time.

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2 MR. FORDE: If you have other
3 comments, there are other avenues that you can
4 use.

5 MS. RYAN: You are sitting here
6 until 9:00, I think you should give us the
7 courtesy.

8 MR. FORDE: We have listened to
9 people. You guys told us what you want. We
10 are taking everything into consideration.

11 MS. RYAN: One thing slipped my
12 mind.

13 MR. FORDE: There are other avenues
14 that you can use for that.

15 Is there anyone else that lives in
16 Hempstead that hasn't spoken that wishes to
17 speak?

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I live in
19 Hempstead but I want to let her speak for me.
20 I will yield my time to her.

21 MR. FORDE: If you want to do that,
22 you can do that:

23 MS. RYAN: Thank you.

24 The question I did ask, you guys are
25 the CBA, and she said she didn't know, so we

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2 need to clarify that. The CBA, they are going
3 to determine what the community wants. They
4 are the Board that's going to help determine
5 infrastructure, what jobs, what community
6 events, things that we are going to have in
7 this community. So we are here to give input
8 on what the community wants, am I
9 understanding correctly? That's what they
10 are here to do.

11 So my question was -- you don't
12 respond. I understand you are just here to
13 listen.

14 So I would like, as a resident,
15 within the next, if this is fair, within the
16 next of couple of weeks for you guys to put
17 something on your website or put something in
18 the community to give us an idea of what you
19 heard. My mother always taught me, when she
20 would chastise us, she said, "Repeat back to
21 me what you heard." Because sometimes we are
22 not always hearing the same thing. I could be
23 speaking to you and you might be hearing
24 something totally different. I don't know
25 what you are hearing because you are not

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2 repeating anything back to me.

3 I would like if you all could put it
4 on the website or issue something in the
5 community on the Mayor's website somewhere
6 what you are hearing from us to give us an
7 idea if you are even hearing us because we
8 have come to all these meetings.

9 I made \$250 as a paralegal. I am
10 very good one. The lawyer I am working for
11 makes \$650 an hour. I am retired. I want to
12 know if you are hearing me. Are you hearing
13 what we are saying? Is there any way that you
14 can post something that says you are hearing
15 us. So if you can consider us and show us, if
16 this is wrong, you all can beat me later, but
17 my mother said, "Don't piss on me and tell me
18 it's raining."

19 Put something out to let me know you
20 are hearing us. Don't make us think we are
21 wasting our time coming here telling you what
22 we want and you are not listening, because
23 then I won't come out any more. My time is
24 too valuable. My children mean more to me
25 than coming to these meetings if you are not

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2 hearing me because I could be home cooking
3 dinner for my children right now, because my
4 children mean that much to me. I have been
5 out here two nights this week because I am
6 hoping that you are hearing me.

7 So let us know if you are hearing us.
8 Post something and say this is what we heard.
9 You are paying this young lady to type her
10 life away. Let's us know if you are hearing
11 us. And you don't have to say each person
12 said this, this and that. Do a consensus of
13 what you heard.

14 If you can post that and let us know
15 that is what we are hearing from the
16 community, at least we know you are hearing
17 us. Because if not, I am not going to waste
18 my time coming back anymore. I watched his
19 video on his website and I got his concept,
20 and I want you to know, I am not personally
21 attacking you. Understand me, because this is
22 not your fault. You came in with a concept
23 and I understand your concept. It is not your
24 fault. If you ever felt like I personally
25 attacked you, I apologize to you. I apologize

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2 to you too, all, if thing personally attacking
3 you, you guys I am because you all like my
4 children, I got on those not related to me,
5 you are all the related.

6 MR. FORDE: Anyone that hasn't spoken
7 that wishes to speak that lives in Hempstead?

8 Please state your name.

9 MR. HANSON: Dave Hanson, 47
10 Courtenay Road, Hempstead, New York.
11 Uniondale school district.

12 I have five sons who live in the
13 Village of Hempstead, and it bothers me every
14 day to see these contractors coming in, they
15 don't live here and they are using inferior
16 material that's not up to state standards.

17 As I said, I worked for the Port
18 Authority for many years. I worked for many
19 government agencies. I know everyone from the
20 local level to the state level, even federal
21 level. But when I go to Terrace, when my
22 neighbors cannot sleep at night by Hofstra
23 University, and when I see Earlene Hooper, who
24 is in this room, telling people that she
25 cleaned up Hofstra, she is dead wrong. It was

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2 me, Ms. Anderson and all those people there.
3 Mr. Lucas is here saying that he is the
4 president. We request to speak to Cavan
5 Abrams through Robbin, and every time we get
6 blocked. And robbin told us to go to Mr.
7 Lucas. We are watching, and I am letting you
8 guys know. We are not going to have it any
9 longer.

10 I am looking straight at you guys. I
11 know what is going on. I am very well
12 informed. I travel to the midwest. I go to
13 plants to see what is going on. I am very
14 involved in the federal government, state
15 government and local government, but you will
16 see me sometime out there like a homeless guy,
17 and that's what you have to do. That's what
18 John Hanson did when he went on that tobacco
19 farm to find the slaves to find out what they
20 were going through. But he was not a slave.
21 He was able to buy his way out of slavery.

22 And we see what is going on.
23 Sometimes they use some of our same brothers
24 and put them in front of all these projects,
25 but there is somebody behind that is pushing

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2 the paper, and they use them to come in our
3 face and slap us.

4 When I look at those guardrails on
5 Peninsula Boulevard, when I was working for
6 the County, I would see those guys putting
7 those guardrails. Those look like something
8 that was in a pit for a hundred years.

9 When I look at those inferior bricks
10 on Peninsula Boulevard, it bothers me because
11 when I worked for the Port Authority, if
12 somebody got a contract, the Port Authority
13 has their people who test those materials, and
14 if they are not up to state standards, they
15 will not get paid and they have to remove it
16 and fix it. That's what we want to see in
17 Hempstead.

18 Everyone looks down on Hempstead.
19 Hempstead is the heart of Long Island. There
20 is so much money involved in Hempstead right
21 now that people are just grabbing. The people
22 who work on projects down in Glen Cove. I
23 know what is going on. People coming over
24 here and they are raping. Our seniors cannot
25 sleep at night because their taxes are so

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2 high. Even when they finish paying for their
3 house.

4 My taxes are over \$12,000. I have
5 two properties here in Hempstead and it is
6 amazing.

7 Sir, you should give people a chance
8 to talk. You keep ringing the bell.

9 MR. FORDE: Everybody has three
10 minutes.

11 MR. HANSON: This is not three
12 minutes because you guys are coming in and how
13 much are you going to make off this project?

14 MR. FORDE: You have three minutes.

15 MR. HANSON: How much are you making
16 on this project?

17 MR. FORDE: I am not here to argue
18 with you. You have three minutes.

19 MR. HANSON: We are watching. I am
20 telling you, from the local level all the way
21 up. I know the State Attorney General, I saw
22 his book here. And we are watching.

23 We are going to make sure these kids
24 have the opportunity right here in Hempstead.
25 Nothing is wrong with the school, it is just a

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2 bad mouth and they are not giving them the
3 tools that they need. And these kids are
4 confused. They need more counseling, they
5 need more direction, they need vision and they
6 needs hope. And we have to stick together.

7 And I will tell you, that's why I
8 don't work for anyone anymore. I work for the
9 people of Hempstead.

10 MR. FORDE: I have to cut your mic.

11 MR. HANSON: Thank you.

12 MR. FORDE: Thank you, everyone.

13 Believe me that all the papers that
14 we received, all the comments that we
15 received, we definitely will take it into
16 consideration.

17 We are going to make the best CBA
18 possible for the people of Hempstead. We are
19 transparent, and all I can say is that a man
20 of words and not of deeds is like a garden
21 full of weeds.

22 So let us do our thing and we will
23 see you in the very near future.

24 (Time noted: 8:58 p.m.)

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