

ORIGINAL

VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD  
PUBLIC HEARING  
on the  
COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT  
July 31, 2012  
2:00 p.m.

Hempstead Public Library  
Community Room  
115 Nichols Court  
Hempstead, New York



Telephone: 212.349.9692  
Facsimile: 212.557.2152

1384 Broadway  
19th Floor  
New York, NY 10118

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

AL FORDE, Chairman

LUIS FIGUEROA, Co-Chairman

## P R O C E E D I N G

MR. FORDE: Good afternoon,  
everybody.

I am going to make an opening  
statement and then we will get this show on  
the road.

My name is Al Forde. I am Chair of  
the Community Benefits Executive Board.

Seated to my right is Luis Figueroa,  
who is Co-Chair of the Hempstead CBA. On the  
end, we have Charles Renfroe, we have Reverend  
Benjamin, Scott Kershaw, Andrena Wyatt,  
Lawrence Burns and attorney Anita Laremont and  
Diane Goins.

I would like to acknowledge the  
Trustees coming in the room, that's Perry  
Pettus and Don Ryan. And I would like to  
acknowledge Renaissance, Ed Scott and Don  
Monti, Sean McLane and the rest of the  
parties.

I am here to unequivocally set the  
record straight. Although outside efforts are  
greatly needed and the gathering of  
information, recommendations amassing the

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2 public to get involved in the process of  
3 inclusion in the project are necessary and  
4 appreciated. Let it be known that this Board  
5 is the official CBA Community Benefits  
6 Agreement Board and committee.

7 We were appointed by the Village of  
8 Hempstead to conduct, construct, vet and  
9 present any community benefits agreement that  
10 is to be written into law. I am not making  
11 this statement to alienate any person or  
12 persons, group or organization. I am just  
13 stating the facts as they are. If you do not  
14 communicate your recommendations, list or  
15 findings to this board, no other organization  
16 has the authority to get your voice heard.

17 The CBA board consists of individuals  
18 from various agencies, businesses, civic,  
19 ecumenical and political organizations. As I  
20 just stated, for the people on the Board, you  
21 have a lot of people that are on this Board  
22 with vested interests within Hempstead.

23 Our purpose is to draft a binding  
24 enforceable contract that will encompass the  
25 needs of the community for the Village of

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2 Hempstead so that ultimately the present  
3 residents are included in the vast  
4 undertakings that are slated to take place in  
5 the very near future.

6 A Community Benefits Agreement is a  
7 contract signed by the community and a real  
8 estate developer that requires the developer  
9 to provide specific amenities and mitigation  
10 to local communities and neighborhoods. In  
11 order to make this happen, we need to hear  
12 from you. Board Member Diane Goins is going  
13 around and she has a sign-up sheet for you to  
14 sign to give your recommendations. So you can  
15 do that with her and then we can begin this  
16 process in a timely manner.

17 We will allot three-minute  
18 recommendations from any bona fide residents  
19 or business owner who resides in the Village  
20 of Hempstead. Let it be clear, this is not a  
21 question and answer forum. This is a  
22 listening and recommendation meeting where we  
23 will take into account all suggestions as to  
24 how we can put together a sustainable CBA that  
25 is beneficial for the Village of Hempstead as

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2 a whole and not any individual or group or  
3 organization. We are not here to answer  
4 questions. We are only here to gather your  
5 suggestions so that all possibilities for a  
6 successful construction of a Community  
7 Benefits Agreement can be heard.

8 We presently have committees in the  
9 following areas: Jobs and training, housing,  
10 business, schools and education,  
11 infrastructure, legal immigration, community  
12 amenities and parks and recreation.

13 Those who wish to speak to those  
14 components are encouraged to do so. If you  
15 have an area that is not mentioned, please  
16 feel free to address the Board with your  
17 recommendations. Please be mindful that  
18 courtesy and respect are practices of the day.  
19 Be aware that if you go over your three-minute  
20 time limit, you will hear a bell. This will  
21 let you know that your time has expired.  
22 Please exit the podium and be courteous of  
23 next speaker's time. We will enforce this  
24 rule so there is order and everyone who is  
25 eligible to speak gets their fair chance.

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2 The allotted time for this meeting  
3 room is from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. We must be  
4 courteous of the time given us and not exceed  
5 our scheduled agreed time for this room.

6 If we cannot get to everyone, there  
7 is a second meeting that will be held on  
8 Thursday, August 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at the  
9 Kennedy Park meeting room. We will continue  
10 with the list from this meeting, and those  
11 that wish to speak will be afforded the  
12 opportunity who were not afforded the  
13 opportunity at this place.

14 There are several other ways that you  
15 can contact us if you do not wish to do it by  
16 speaking today. You can contact us on the  
17 Internet. You can go [www.cbahempstead.org](http://www.cbahempstead.org) and  
18 hit the recommendations link. There is a form  
19 that will come up and you can put in any  
20 question that you want in that form. You can  
21 also get us by e-mail. You can go to  
22 [info@CBAHempstead.org](mailto:info@CBAHempstead.org) and you can voice your  
23 opinions there or you get it by snail mail or  
24 regular post office mail. You can write a  
25 letter or a comment to 80 Clinton Street, Box

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2 136, Hempstead, New York 11550.

3 Let's come together and draft and  
4 craft a contract that will be unprecedented in  
5 its enforceability to ensure that the people  
6 of Hempstead get their fair share of all that  
7 is afforded us that is redevelopment takes  
8 shape in the Village of Hempstead.

9 Thank you very much.

10 I am going to yield the floor to my  
11 Co-Chair Luis Figueroa.

12 MR. FIGUEROA: I see there is no  
13 interpreter, I thought there would be.

14 THE INTERPRETER: I am here.

15 MR. FIGUEROA: Okay.

16 Anyway, just to say a little bit just  
17 to compress all of this together for the  
18 Latinos who may be here who do not speak  
19 English.

20 (Speaking Spanish.)

21 MR. FORDE: Before we begin, I would  
22 like everyone to rise so we can salute the  
23 flag.

24 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

25 MR. FORDE: Now I will invite Don

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2 Monti to come up and say few words, the  
3 developer.

4 MR. MONTI: Thank you, Al and Luis,  
5 and members of the Board and members of the  
6 community.

7 I am also here to listen, and I think  
8 that between this afternoon and Thursday  
9 night, hopefully, we will get a lot of input,  
10 and I think that ultimately the goal is to  
11 have something that benefits the community  
12 without question, something that can happen  
13 soon, a training center that can be  
14 implemented immediately so that we can start  
15 preparing for the jobs that we anticipate from  
16 this development. So I am excited and I hope  
17 everyone else here is also that good things  
18 are going to happen in Hempstead.

19 And thanks for the opportunity.

20 MR. FORDE: I would like to ask  
21 everyone to please put their cell phones on  
22 vibrate if you have not done so already.  
23 Thank you.

24 We will begin to call the speakers.

25 MS. GOINS: Good afternoon.

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2 Our first speaker will be Sean Hill.

3 MR. HILL: Good afternoon.

4 My name is Sean Hill. I live in  
5 Hempstead, 11 Shore Place.

6 For me, I grew up in Hempstead. I  
7 came a long way from construction class. I  
8 was also with a group called ABBA, Reverend  
9 Benjamin. They put me in a construction site  
10 over on Hofstra University. We complete that  
11 whole project and then we get plugged in over  
12 here. Our supervisor over here -- and we are  
13 opening jobs is to men who needs them. We are  
14 not turning nobody down. My thing is it is  
15 hard work. Hard can week completes everything  
16 successful. If you are not harding work, you  
17 are willing to live unsuccessful. I want to  
18 live successful.

19 That's it.

20 MR. FORDE: Thank you.

21 Speakers, as you come up, state your  
22 name and spell it for us please so we can have  
23 a record.

24 Kevin Robinson.

25 MR. ROBINSON: Good afternoon,

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2 everyone.

3 My name is Kevin Robinson,  
4 K.E.V.I.N., R.O.B.I.N.S.O.N. I am a job  
5 developer, the director of job placement for  
6 ABBA Leadership Center.

7 And what I am here for today is in  
8 support of the revitalization project. I work  
9 closely with the coalition in all communities  
10 with Reverend Benjamin's assistance. I am the  
11 one doing the work of placement and trying to  
12 set it up for these guys to get their OSHA  
13 certification, and we are dealing with hard to  
14 employ and ex-offenders in our community. I  
15 have a base of over 300 guys that are seeking  
16 employment through the community. I have  
17 referrals from anywhere from the Board of  
18 Trustees, the Mayor's Office, anyone from the  
19 Village, CODA and any residents. It has come  
20 from numerous aspects throughout this  
21 community. And we are looking forward to this  
22 project.

23 I speak around the community and a  
24 lot of people are getting energized about some  
25 opportunities. And I want to commend Don

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2 Monti for talking about the training that is  
3 going to be needed for the things that have  
4 been obstacles in the past as far as OSHA  
5 certification and private training. That is  
6 something we are addressing at ABBA.

7 So it is something that I am glad the  
8 community has come out for and in support of.  
9 I am glad we are getting more people and more  
10 input into it. I am looking forward to this  
11 project as well as housing and all other  
12 aspects of the Community Benefits Agreement we  
13 will address, so I am always available close  
14 by. I am energized and I am very hopeful on  
15 this and look forward to success on the  
16 numerous aspects, jobs, housing opportunities,  
17 prior, before and after.

18 Can everyone hear me?

19 THE AUDIENCE: Now we can.

20 MR. ROBINSON: I will start over.

21 I am a job developer and job  
22 placement director with ABBA. I am the  
23 assistant to Reverend Benjamin at ABBA.

24 We have a base of over 300 some men  
25 and women looking for employment. They are

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2 numerous here -- if you can stand up --  
3 looking for employment through ABBA or have  
4 been placed already.

5 I appreciate these guys, I thank you  
6 guys for showing up today so you can get a  
7 bigger grasp of what it is we are trying to do  
8 and how we go about it. If you guys could  
9 take a seat.

10 Also, I have been working with the  
11 communities for change, very closely with Don  
12 Ryan. I get a lot of referrals from the Board  
13 of Trustees and Don Ryan. I look forward to  
14 working with him. I look forward to working  
15 with Don Monti and Renaissance Downtown. It  
16 has been over a year and a half working with  
17 Sean, Latoya, and the people there. So this  
18 is something I think the community can benefit  
19 from. I look forward to this Board here that  
20 has been chosen and is very distinguished.

21 We are praying for you guys to do the  
22 right things. We are praying for you guys to  
23 lead us and to have an impact for what it is  
24 we are doing as a community and what direction  
25 we are going. That's very important. The

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2 community is watching. And we are looking for  
3 a benefit and we are looking for this to be  
4 beautiful, but we are also looking for  
5 progress from the community.

6 Thank you and God bless.

7 MR. FORDE: Juan Escudero?

8 MR. ESCUDERO: Good afternoon, ladies  
9 and gentlemen, J.U.A.N., E.S.C.U.D.E.R.O.

10 First, I am a business owner. I  
11 represent the small business, and I suggest to  
12 the Village and the development to get a  
13 reasonable treatment for business. Because I  
14 have a knowledge of a lot of business owners,  
15 they lost business in the last construction  
16 the Village is making about 10 to 12 years and  
17 the owners of the business, they don't receive  
18 any money yet from the town. So I suggest now  
19 that they can recognize the price of business,  
20 if they have to leave it, if they have to come  
21 back to the town, a reasonable treatment to  
22 move into the new buildings when they are  
23 promised to me by Mr. Al. I remember when you  
24 promised it to me.

25 Thank you very much.

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2 Also, I want to get to the signs in  
3 the street. I have a business in town. I  
4 want to find that sign, big sign in the street  
5 to inform all the working people how they have  
6 to get a job, how they have to train because  
7 we promise to train them but a lot of people  
8 have no information about it. It is good to  
9 get on the Internet, but if you pass a street  
10 and see a sign, you will read it. And  
11 everybody pays attention about that. So I  
12 suggest get the signs on several corners about  
13 the jobs, about how they can get jobs, how  
14 they can get training, because without  
15 training, they are not going to get a job.  
16 They have to be a union to get the job and to  
17 be in union, they have to be trained.

18 Also, I pass for one cup to other the  
19 housing. The housing is 70 percent of housing  
20 apartment, they live in studio with one  
21 bedroom. How many people here live alone.  
22 Not many. All people have two or three  
23 children, suggest a little bit more big  
24 apartments for people in Hempstead because the  
25 people in Hempstead they deserve to get good

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2 apartment and good salaries. I mean, if they  
3 can afford the price of the apartments.  
4 Because the rent of the apartments destroy the  
5 community. They can't live comfortable with  
6 the money they are making. Apartments have to  
7 be equal price with the salary they have.  
8 Nobody can live in an apartment and good  
9 apartment with salary they have.

10 So that's why I ask for very good  
11 apartment with salary they have.

12 Thank you very much.

13 MR. FORDE: Supreme Mathematics.

14 MR. MATHEMATICS: How is everybody?

15 My name is Supreme Mathematics. I am  
16 right now representing the Coalition for  
17 Community Benefits for Hempstead.

18 And a few things I want to speak  
19 about to make a point.

20 The first thing I want to speak about  
21 is housing. We are looking for the housing is  
22 35 percent of the housing. We are not looking  
23 for low income housing in terms of welfare  
24 housing, Section 8 housing. We are not  
25 talking about that. We are talking about tier

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2 housing where people like groundkeepers making  
3 \$21,000 a year can move in. The people who  
4 take care of the groups should be able to live  
5 in the same environment they take care of the  
6 grounds in. The same thing with an  
7 administrator making \$36,000 a year in the  
8 County of Nassau, they should be able to live  
9 inside a place such as that. A housekeeper  
10 who does housekeeping should be able to live  
11 in a facility like that. People, graphic  
12 artists make \$35,000 a year should be able to  
13 move into a place of that nature. People  
14 making \$42,000, like paralegals, don't make a  
15 lot of money, should be able to live in a  
16 facility of that nature.

17 We are talking about people court  
18 clerks making \$47,000 a year, they should be  
19 able live in facility like that. These are  
20 type incomes we are talking about. Those  
21 income ranges are 40 percent annual median  
22 income rate is up to 90 percent. Right now  
23 inside the book we don't have that. That's a  
24 goal. We have to understand at the same time  
25 the Community Benefits Agreement I hope will

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2 be binding by the zone, I don't know how  
3 legally binding it will be if we bind it. No  
4 one will tell us but if not by zone that  
5 should be amended to the zone. That's what  
6 the Community Benefits Agreement should be  
7 amended to. That's the only legal binding  
8 action that I can think of that will be a  
9 course we can take in terms of making sure  
10 median income can live in the facility of such  
11 nature.

12 If we want 100 percent of union  
13 income, we are still talking rent going to be  
14 somewhere between \$1,400 a month. That's  
15 still the same type of price range you are  
16 talking about. If you analyze what we are  
17 going for right now for common folk, and we  
18 are talking a librarian right here making  
19 \$63,000 a year, probably the only person will  
20 be able to touch inside that facility.

21 I am not here to praise anybody. I  
22 just want to give facts so we get a good  
23 benefit agreement. That's basically it.

24 In terms of jobs, you seen a lot  
25 union men stand up here, that's not an inkling

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2 of the unemployment rate here in the Village  
3 of Hempstead. We have double digits. We have  
4 secondary digits in the Village of Hempstead.

5 One reason why people are trained to  
6 operate, to work, to go forward. I recommend  
7 and praise that Don Monti facility they would  
8 like to open it up as far as job training also  
9 amended into Community Benefits Agreement so  
10 that always point of the project that will  
11 still be advantage training going on because  
12 they still need training or development starts  
13 and we should let training just in  
14 construction. There should be technical  
15 training as well provided because we are a  
16 technical age and can think we are all  
17 laborers in the field inside this community of  
18 development.

19 There is a lot of trades that should  
20 happen. For example, the development of  
21 fixing iPods. That is a good example. Who  
22 fixes iPods? Just Apple. Why can't we also  
23 develop training for iPods? Very simple job  
24 development that needs to happen. We need to  
25 think about this ten-year process, not just

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2 today's process.

3 My major concern is who is going to  
4 make sure the CBA has lived out the components  
5 seat. That must be put inside community  
6 benefits agreement, how will it be operated,  
7 who is in charge of the penalties, who will  
8 component that we ask okay, they are not  
9 hiring 30 or 40 more jobs in the job site,  
10 let's talk about it.

11 Let's talk about job site for a  
12 moment. Mr. Monti only have 10 percent of the  
13 downtown development area. Let's don't think  
14 that's an answer. Every developer that comes  
15 in the Village has to heed this community  
16 benefit agreement, so let's don't think one  
17 man one shot.

18 You know I am not finished, but I  
19 will sit down for the next guy.

20 MR. FORDE: If anyone else wants to  
21 sign up to speak, raise your hand, Ms. Goins  
22 will come around.

23 Victoria M. Hill.

24 MS. HILL: Thank you very much for  
25 this opportunity.

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2 To Mayor Hall and the Community  
3 Benefits Agreement Committee from the Victoria  
4 M. Hill, 145 Warner Avenue in Hempstead  
5 regarding the Downtown Hempstead Development  
6 Project, jobs, apprenticeship/training  
7 program. Date is July 31, 2012.

8 I, Victoria M. Hill, retired teacher  
9 and homeowner for the last 34 years, request  
10 that job training and apprenticeship be  
11 included as one of the benefits from the  
12 downtown Hempstead project.

13 The target training group should be  
14 male, high school students and/or dropout  
15 between the ages of 16 and 21. 50 students  
16 should be the target number. The training  
17 should be in construction, contracting,  
18 plumbing, architecture, brick laying,  
19 electrical and any other skills that are  
20 involved in the project. The student should  
21 work alongside of the instructors. A stipend  
22 should be given as an incentive to become  
23 involved.

24 Kindly give this your serious  
25 consideration. Thank you.

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2 MR. FORDE: We are going to pause for  
3 a couple of seconds because interpreter just  
4 arrived and we would like her to set up.

5 (Pause.)

6 MR. FORDE: We are ready to.

7 Proceed. Will everybody please take  
8 your seat.

9 Dennis Jones, please come up to the  
10 podium.

11 MR. JONES: Good afternoon.

12 My name is Dennis Jones, 11 Circle  
13 Drive, Hempstead.

14 I just want to add a little bit to  
15 this proceeding. Really I am still at a loss  
16 as many of you are about this Community  
17 Benefits Agreement and really where we are at  
18 with this, and I know we have been hearing  
19 what we all want to see.

20 I know that these ladies and  
21 gentlemen are taking our information and doing  
22 what tasks they have been employed to do.

23 I do want to tell you that Community  
24 Benefits Agreements have been going on for a  
25 long time. They have been all over the place,

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2 all over the country. We have had some good  
3 ones and we have had some very bad ones, but  
4 it takes the community really getting  
5 involved. It takes the community really  
6 standing up and offering from what lights you  
7 want to see to how big this arena is that you  
8 want to see. It takes that whole spectrum.

9 So sometimes which are hearing the  
10 same stories, we want jobs, yes, we want jobs,  
11 but there are a lot of other things that we  
12 need to start looking at as to what we really  
13 want in Hempstead. Hempstead is a great,  
14 great town and we need to see it be revised  
15 and we need to see people interact with your  
16 community leaders, interact with civic  
17 organizations and make sure they are  
18 represented at this table and at these  
19 meetings, if you can. Because it will be very  
20 hard to decide what color this house needs to  
21 be or what lighting should be on this  
22 particular block from just not being involved.  
23 If you are not involved, if you are not  
24 engaged in these meetings, so I am asking you  
25 to go back to your neighbors, because it is

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2 not just you, it is your neighbor's  
3 involvement also, get them involved whether  
4 with community organizations or if they could  
5 come represent the block and talk about what  
6 it is that we really do need. That's really  
7 what this community benefits agreement is  
8 going to produce. And it is only going to  
9 produce it from what we say.

10 As I said, there is maybe many, many  
11 bad Community Benefits Agreement. The  
12 Atlantic yard in Brooklyn is still going up.  
13 That's a bad Community Benefits Agreement and  
14 we need to engage ourselves to look at some of  
15 the options that they talked about and some  
16 options that they discussed when they were  
17 having these type of meetings in those several  
18 different areas and we will see how our work  
19 can be benefiting you later on.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. FORDE: Eugene Keller.

22 MR. KELLER: Hello, everyone.

23 My name is Eugene Keller. I was  
24 raised here in Hempstead. I went to school  
25 here in Hempstead. I went to Ludlum, which is

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2 Obama School now. I went to the Hempstead  
3 Middle school and graduated. And I basically  
4 came up here in Hempstead, was raised here in  
5 Hempstead.

6 I am going to get to the point. I  
7 have been in two fires so far. The first one  
8 was in 298 Main Street. I wasn't able to  
9 recover anything and I couldn't get in touch  
10 with my landlord to get any of my property,  
11 kids photographs, birth certificates or  
12 nothing. And the second one was down on 590,  
13 about a month or two ago. And all I got there  
14 was damages, smoke and water and stuff like  
15 that. So basically I just been going through  
16 a lot of different changes.

17 But I do know trying to find another  
18 place to live is even harder. I think  
19 everybody needs housing. Whether it is people  
20 making \$40,000 a year or whether they are on  
21 disability, people need a place to live.  
22 Hempstead is a wonderful place. Like I said,  
23 I grew up here, but I think there is a lot  
24 that needs to be done and changed and fixed.  
25 Let me cut it short.

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2 Thank you.

3 MR. FORDE: Bob Saieva?

4 MR. SAIEVA: My name is Bob Saieva,  
5 S.A.I.E.V.A.

6 We need jobs. We need housing. We  
7 need the community to come together in support  
8 of this project, but we also need a follow  
9 through to get this done. You say create  
10 jobs, that's wonderful to create jobs, but you  
11 have to have a real plan. I contacted some  
12 online and some colleges that have vocational  
13 schooling. They are willing to come down to  
14 Hempstead and help us with the financing of it  
15 and help us with the training, hook up with  
16 the colleges, hook up with the New York State  
17 Department of Labor. That's what it takes to  
18 create real jobs, living wage jobs so you can  
19 afford the nice apartments that he is going to  
20 build.

21 And then you have to make the  
22 community safe. Parking, all that is  
23 involved. I mean, people that are in Nassau  
24 County, when you talk about Hempstead, they  
25 are afraid to come. A lot people live here,

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2 they know how to deal with it, but normal  
3 people are scared to death. Nightclubs,  
4 whatever. It is not that simple. So a lot of  
5 problems have to be addressed and followed  
6 through step by step. It is a wonderful  
7 project, we just have to do it right so the  
8 agreement is good.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. FORDE: Please state your name.

11 MR. KUYATTEH: Good afternoon,  
12 friends.

13 My name is Anthony Kuyatteh,  
14 K.U.Y.A.T.T.E.H.

15 I am a member of the New York  
16 Community for Change, and I have lived in  
17 Hempstead for quite a period of time.

18 The chairman, even though he's the  
19 biggest one talking about living wage not in  
20 this agenda. That is what I will talk about  
21 today. All these things we talk about, if we  
22 don't have that wage, which is living wage, we  
23 cannot do anything and nobody here can afford  
24 to live on minimum wage. That minimum wage is  
25 an insult to people. Minimum wage every day,

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2 we expect the government and the community to  
3 talk about living. I think wage, that's  
4 living is big word and in the Bible a man  
5 became a living soul. The whole of Hempstead,  
6 everybody here wants jobs in Hempstead all  
7 under 25,000. Minimum wage, can we afford  
8 rent in Hempstead? We cannot. Nobody want to  
9 come to Hempstead.

10 I want to hear about Terrace Avenue,  
11 it is killing place, the killers are there.  
12 So the chairman left that part out where  
13 living wage is not mentioned. So we want  
14 these jobs to really on word living wage. How  
15 much are you going to pay? Jobs will come  
16 here 3,000, 5,000 but how much are they going  
17 to pay, are we going to live on minimum wage  
18 like McDonald's, Berger King? Western Beef is  
19 paying 7.25 minimum wage. This is Hempstead.  
20 Hempstead like a caliber place. It's one of  
21 the Most populated in the nation Hempstead.  
22 But one million people here, where is machine?  
23 Now we have two and a half billion. I never  
24 heard about that, God bless us.

25 Then the chairman next time soon

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2 agenda might tend to offer a prayer to supreme  
3 leader. Good. To salute the flag. Flag is  
4 not much to do good. Good is one of us here  
5 if we share and have love for each other, this  
6 Hempstead will be blessed. Just like we say  
7 in the New York community, that the people who  
8 are united will never be defeated. So if we  
9 unite, we will not be defeated. Even the  
10 Spanish say (speaking Spanish), the people  
11 united are never defeated.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. FORDE: Chaplain Michael Winkler.

14 CHAPLAIN WINKLER: I will not need  
15 the use of the microphone, as you will hear  
16 me.

17 My name is Chaplain Michael C.  
18 Winkler. I am an official New York State  
19 certified community chaplain. I do not  
20 represent a group. However, I do represent a  
21 large contingency of the residents of the  
22 Village of Hempstead, so let me just say this:  
23 In Washington, D.C. where I was born and  
24 raised, there is a project that is already put  
25 in place. They have displaced thousands of

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2 members of the black community and moved them  
3 completely out of Washington, D.C. and I know  
4 where they are. And in place they put a  
5 project just like this one. In place amid all  
6 the museums, all the historic places and all  
7 like that.

8 Here is my issue: If this plan gets  
9 totally approved and you build, and I am  
10 speaking to all the CBA, and the developers,  
11 and you, Mr. Forde, the president of the  
12 Chamber of Commerce. If this happens, and you  
13 build, where are you going to displace all the  
14 poor people or the people who are not making  
15 the amount of money that you want to be in  
16 this town?

17 Number two, what are you going to do  
18 with the contaminated soil underneath the  
19 ground which is going to affect thousands of  
20 the residents of Village of Hempstead and even  
21 in Garden City? How are you going to do that?  
22 And I need you all to address that.  
23 Developers, Mr. Forde, representatives of the  
24 Mayor, answer that question for us. We would  
25 greatly, greatly appreciate it.

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2 MR. FORDE: Latrice Smith.

3 MS. SMITH: My name is Latrice  
4 Smith, L.A.T.R.I.C.E., S.M.I.T.H.

5 I go to Hempstead High School.

6 All I want to say is I want for  
7 facilities and jobs for the youth to keep them  
8 off the streets.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. FORDE: John L. Settles.

11 MR. SETTLES: My name is John L.  
12 Settles. Resident of Hempstead, born, a  
13 native.14 I hear a lot of people, I have been  
15 here a long time and that time and this time,  
16 but I am actually native born here. I see  
17 changes. We do need to get a lot of this.  
18 No, we don't need this.19 We do need some change in Hempstead.  
20 Look at it now. It is in the worst condition  
21 I have ever seen Hempstead in. There is no  
22 jobs. There is no housing. And everybody  
23 wants to blame it on everybody else. But we  
24 have a part of ourselves.

25 I am not -- a lot of us were denied

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2 education, didn't go to college, didn't do  
3 anything. A lot thought it wise to sell drugs  
4 in our community in Hempstead and now somebody  
5 is trying to make a change for us, trying to  
6 bring jobs, make housing. You got the biggest  
7 noise against what we are not going to do,  
8 what we can do. We have to learn how to work  
9 with people.

10 Myself, I went to Jack Profit. I am  
11 calling names, because you said that there was  
12 jobs, this and that, very good with  
13 accounting, I thought I was going to get a  
14 job. You have to have spreadsheets because it  
15 is all about construction, so you have to  
16 accountability. I have heard nothing,  
17 nothing.

18 So we want to know, I want to know  
19 all these promises you made, who is going to  
20 be accountable to the Villagers, who is going  
21 say how many people, how many jobs we got.  
22 How much housing is really going to be  
23 allotted to us, to the poor. Because when you  
24 want something, you go buy it and make all  
25 these promises, we are going to do this and

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2 that. Who are you going to assign or some  
3 people that you are going to assign out of the  
4 community to account to?

5 I don't hear any answer.

6 MR. FORDE: Juanita Wilson.

7 MS. WILSON: Good afternoon,  
8 everyone.

9 My name is Juanita Wilson. I reside  
10 at 93 Surrey Lane in Hempstead. I have been  
11 living here since 1979. I have been living in  
12 the Village of Hempstead for about 40 years.

13 I know that what I say is not going  
14 to get any aid, but that's okay.

15 There is something wrong with this  
16 picture. We have to understand that this is  
17 not Manhattan, this is not the Bronx, this is  
18 not Brooklyn. This is the suburbs. People  
19 move here to get away from all those high-rise  
20 buildings. They enjoy their backyard, their  
21 front yard, not having to wonder what's going  
22 to happen in the next apartment, being able to  
23 walk down the streets without bumping or maybe  
24 hitting someone else.

25 Yes, we do need a change, but there

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2 can be a change without making a change with  
3 this picture.

4 We talk about our youth. What about  
5 getting something for recreational for our  
6 youth. How long has it been since we had a  
7 theatre here in Hempstead? Who has money to  
8 always catch a cab to go to Roosevelt Field?  
9 Look at other villages, look at Freeport, they  
10 have a recreation center that is very, very  
11 enjoyable by all the people there. If you are  
12 going to build Hempstead up and revitalize, do  
13 it in a way where it would help people instead  
14 of taking away from the people. Why should  
15 you be allowed to take away businesses that  
16 have been here for years and years, because  
17 you have Renaissance, you want to make that  
18 change. And why, because developers want to  
19 do it. How is it going to help the community.  
20 We can get jobs but there is always the better  
21 way, more than one way to make an increase.  
22 All you have to do is research, don't take the  
23 first thing that comes to mind, look around  
24 you. There are other villages and other towns  
25 that have always come together, and they come

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2 for the right, and to me, this is for the  
3 wrong.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. FORDE: Robin Brazley.

6 MS. BRAZLEY: Good afternoon.

7 My name is Robin Brazley, life-long  
8 resident of Hempstead.

9 I came today to ask the committee to  
10 look at this work seriously and utilize this  
11 opportunity to establish an organization that  
12 can get the job done that has been promised.  
13 Hempstead, when you look around, and all the  
14 comments that I have heard since I have been  
15 here, we don't have to go to Yankee Stadium or  
16 Brooklyn or anywhere. Hempstead is the  
17 Community Benefits Agreement gone wrong.

18 I do not agree that the problem here  
19 is our people. Our problem here is that we  
20 don't understand the conditions under which we  
21 are making major decisions. There has been a  
22 lot of discussion, and everyone knows I have  
23 two issues. One of them is the poor quality  
24 of education that we pay very high tax dollars  
25 to support. And the other is lack of planning

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2 with regard to our Village. We cannot get a  
3 Community Benefits Agreement without the kind  
4 of organization that it takes that will  
5 coordinate the planning, the data development  
6 and will transform the aspirations of people  
7 into a concrete policy and practice.

8 Hempstead needs help developing an  
9 infrastructure that will protect the  
10 investment you are asking us to make. Those  
11 of us who have been here as long as I have  
12 understand that every apartment building that  
13 we see was a result of the Community Benefits  
14 Agreement. We agreed to change zoning laws  
15 under the promise that the infrastructure that  
16 we now see will be a benefit to this  
17 community. We are the largest municipality in  
18 this region. We are larger than six cities in  
19 the State of New York. We have greater  
20 population density than any other community in  
21 Long Island and in Nassau County in  
22 particular. And through government action of  
23 the County, Town and in some cases Village, we  
24 have been turned into the public housing  
25 project of the region. 30 apartment buildings

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2 comprising 2,800 municipalities are not on our  
3 tax rolls. We do not believe developers when  
4 they tell us that building this project  
5 including the 3,000 units of housing is going  
6 to turn that situation around. And if you  
7 think so, you should disengage and put people  
8 on this committee with courage and with the  
9 tenacity to do the research and the work that  
10 we need.

11 We need a staffed organizational  
12 effort. That's the point person the person  
13 was talking about. We need to see that the  
14 Village, Town, County, State and federal  
15 government are working with our benefits  
16 agreement committee to establish the kind of  
17 infrastructure that will sustain the  
18 development that you are promising.

19 What we can show you and the  
20 developers and the Mayor and anyone who looks  
21 what wants to see is what happens when you go  
22 ahead and build multifamily dwellings and  
23 shopping centers without paying attention to  
24 the lack of political and economic  
25 infrastructure to support and sustain that

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2 development.

3 We as taxpayers, homeowners, market  
4 rate renters and small businesses are paying  
5 the taxes for 30 apartment buildings. Nothing  
6 you can do or say will change that except a  
7 concerted effort and commitment to do so.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. FORDE: Okay --

10 MS. BRAZLEY: One other thing.

11 Affordable housing doesn't just mean  
12 subsidized housing for the poor. It means  
13 affordable homeownership programs for the  
14 working middle class. And I think we should  
15 utilize our development network with community  
16 development agencies to enter the development  
17 base of this work.

18 MR. FORDE: Thank you very much.

19 Isaac Mann.

20 MR. MANN: Thank you, sir.

21 Thank God for another day of  
22 reprieve. Thanks for the brainstorming.

23 I come from the -- I came here in  
24 1961. I am a product of the Don Ryan and Otis  
25 Mills and stuff, you know, when people have

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2 respect for the senior citizens. I look at  
3 now that senior citizens are afraid to walk  
4 through a group of young men or women standing  
5 in front of a store. The development -- I  
6 come from Hempstead, I was raised here. I am  
7 talking about what happened to the W.T.  
8 Grants, the A&S, the Woolworth's, the four  
9 movie theatres and stuff like that?

10 Where are we really going? I  
11 brainstorm with my partner, Big Bob, and like  
12 the young lady just spoke about, how do we get  
13 to buy up some of these houses for 86,000?  
14 Why not buy 20 of those, do the lottery thing  
15 so the middle class person who is making 46 or  
16 36,000 can own their own home? You know,  
17 what happened? It is just amazing what  
18 happened to Hempstead. We were so proud to  
19 live here, to be part of Hempstead, and now we  
20 are afraid of our youth. How do we touch our  
21 youth? How do we educate them to become  
22 business minded so they can open a business?

23 When I first moved here we had  
24 Ms. Hicks owned a store. We had people that  
25 owned businesses and stuff, and that gave back

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2 to the community. You know, my mother and  
3 countless other mothers I know, they came up  
4 here as a clean-up women, went to school. My  
5 mother owned Cinderella Beauty Salon on top of  
6 Billy's Barbershop. We had restaurants and  
7 all different types of things and people came  
8 together and we broke bread together and  
9 shared with each other, respected each other.

10 This big development is definitely  
11 what we need. We need something to bring  
12 Hempstead back alive and draw people back to  
13 Hempstead and bring more income into  
14 Hempstead. But what do we do with our youth  
15 to get them grounded to be able to know that  
16 they are worth something and then we can say  
17 what our President Barack Obama says, yes, we  
18 can live at the peace again and we won't have  
19 to worry about bullets coming through the  
20 windows to kill our babies.

21 God bless you. Have a satisfying  
22 day.

23 MR. FORDE: Earle Haskins.

24 MR. HASKINS: How are you all doing?  
25 I can't believe I am up here.

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2 But the developers, what they want to  
3 see is no harm come to their projects, no harm  
4 come to their investments. In order to do  
5 that, they have to stop the violence. They  
6 had four or five people killed last week,  
7 children killed last week. In order for that  
8 not to spread to here and for them builders  
9 not to be damaged or become a Terrace Avenue  
10 or Aviemore or a Gladys or your children are  
11 dead the next morning. In order to do that,  
12 you have to give a child hope.

13 I know the people from the Mayor, the  
14 Deputy Mayor of Hempstead, Mr. Ryan and  
15 Mr. Rally, and in the back I give the man  
16 respect because I come from that. My time in  
17 the building was upstairs. I have an arrest  
18 record that's bigger than everybody's birth  
19 date because I had no hope. If you have no  
20 hope, there is no needing buildings. I don't  
21 care how many buildings you will put up or how  
22 many stores for them to steal, burn, take  
23 from. In order to stop it, you have to give  
24 them hope. In order to give them hope, you  
25 have to give them a job, give them a prospect,

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2 give them some type of ambition. You can have  
3 all the youth center you want. If you don't  
4 have no family unity, have nobody in the  
5 family showing them, you need some type of  
6 hope, some type of promise, some type of love,  
7 some type of inspiration, you have nothing. I  
8 don't care how many developers you get in  
9 here, it ain't going to work. The only way to  
10 do that is to give them a job, give them some  
11 type of hope. Even if it is minimum wage,  
12 give them a chance to show they are worth  
13 something and they will stop, the Crypts,  
14 Bloods, Warlords. They will stop that. But  
15 if you don't give them that, they have nothing  
16 to cling onto.

17 Take it from me, check upstairs.

18 MR. FORDE: We are going to take a  
19 five-minute break.

20 (Recess taken.)

21 MR. FORDE: Okay, we will resume,  
22 everybody.

23 We will start off with James Sharpe.

24 MR. SHARPE: Good afternoon, ladies  
25 and gentlemen.

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2 I have a couple of points I would  
3 like to make.

4 James Sharpe, 105 Holly Avenue,  
5 Hempstead. I am also vice president of the  
6 Board of Education for the Uniondale School  
7 District.

8 I have been to any number of these  
9 meetings. I have given my e-mail and  
10 telephone information and Renaissance and  
11 whoever has been here, okay. I feel that the  
12 people that live in Hempstead that are part of  
13 the Uniondale School District have not been  
14 well informed. My information is available to  
15 everybody. I have not gotten a phone call  
16 from anyone. 30 percent of Hempstead goes to  
17 the Uniondale School District, so we are  
18 not -- you talk about education let's also  
19 talk about education in Uniondale and I will  
20 leave that where that is. We talk about jobs  
21 and training. We do not need our kids to be  
22 working cash registers and stocking shelves.  
23 We need our kids and our young men and women  
24 to be mentored to do management positions, to  
25 be creative thinkers. So telling me that you

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2 are going give my daughter or my son or my  
3 niece or nephew a job in Old Navy because  
4 that's part of the restoration, that is not  
5 doing my child a favor. She can go to the  
6 mall and get a job.

7 We need our kids to be six-figure  
8 income earners. And let's be clear about  
9 that. Let's be really clear about that. Stop  
10 putting our kids in positions where they can  
11 earn minimum wage and have them earn maximum  
12 wage. And that wasn't really the topic that  
13 was I was going to, but that was something  
14 that I was talking about to some people in the  
15 audience that really needs to be said, what  
16 kind of jobs are you really putting out their  
17 for our children?

18 We need to make sure that it is not  
19 just piecemeal.

20 Now, being a member of the Board of  
21 Education, it is also important that the  
22 Uniondale School District be included in the  
23 conversations because 30 percent of us live in  
24 Hempstead. So it does affect us even though  
25 we don't live on Main Street or we don't live

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2 on Terrace Avenue or we don't live on Ingram  
3 Road. We have to pay Village taxes like  
4 everybody else in the room. I need to be  
5 addressed and so do the people that live in  
6 the Uniondale School District. Nobody has  
7 gotten in touch with my superintendent or  
8 anyone from the Board of Education. And I  
9 think that's something that needs to be  
10 addressed.

11 And because I kind of digressed a  
12 little bit from what I originally -- see what  
13 I wrote down there, I know I have three  
14 minutes. I talked about education and jobs  
15 and that's basically what I am talking about.  
16 We need to look at the big picture and go with  
17 a larger scope.

18 MR. FORDE: We will definitely take  
19 that into consideration.

20 MR. SHARPE: If anybody needs to get  
21 in touch with me, it is not hard to do.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. FORDE: Ramon Daya.

24 MR. DAYA: Good afternoon.

25 My name is Ramon Daya, D.A.Y.A.

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2 I grew up in this Village. I own the  
3 Village Deli, and I know for a fact that we  
4 need jobs for our youth, we need to upgrade  
5 our schools, we need affordable housing, but  
6 now I see a lot people excited about the jobs  
7 that Renaissance is providing or training for  
8 jobs. How many jobs are we going to get, 100,  
9 200, 300? Inside that math for the  
10 development will be hundreds of businesses  
11 that will go out and we will lose hundreds of  
12 jobs that you cannot replace. How do we  
13 replace people out of work? They will lose  
14 their businesses, they will lose their jobs.  
15 I mean, there are a lot of things involved  
16 here and we do need jobs, we need to upgrade  
17 the school system, we can't have our kids  
18 taking classes in trailers on Jackson, on  
19 Fulton. We do desperately need jobs for  
20 youth, we need affordable housing. We need a  
21 lot of things.

22 MR. FORDE: Is there anyone else that  
23 has something to say?

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is not on  
25 the list, but I have something to say.

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2 MR. FORDE: Please give your name and  
3 address.

4 MS. JONES: Good afternoon.

5 My name is Anita Jones. I live in  
6 Hempstead for a while, my son the attended  
7 Hempstead School District.

8 I have been to too many of these  
9 meetings, and I have heard this talk before,  
10 it is old to me. Promises of jobs and  
11 education. To me it is just same old  
12 rhetoric. I don't see any site plans to  
13 really show what you plan to do with  
14 Hempstead. I don't believe a developer really  
15 wants to be concerned about people's education  
16 and their kids getting degrees for college. I  
17 really don't buy that. The school system we  
18 have always had an issue with the school  
19 system. It's a community problem that has  
20 been rampant, we need to look at how the  
21 school functions, the insides of politics of  
22 what makes the school work.

23 The youth that we address, they are  
24 not here, they are not at this meeting. Most  
25 of us are elderly. 30s, 40s that youth we are

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2 so busy planning their future for them and  
3 they are not here. And I think they have lost  
4 faith in the Village, to tell you the truth,  
5 they have lost faith in the community. And I  
6 personally feel it is just another meeting  
7 where promises are made for jobs.

8 Jobs is like taxes, when people hear  
9 no taxes, they jump up and down for joy. But  
10 they never stop to think who sacrifices for no  
11 taxes. Somebody pays the price for things.  
12 And I think in every thing there is a price,  
13 nothing is free in life, so if we want to do  
14 this wonderful plan, what are we giving up for  
15 it? It is not going to come free. I don't  
16 think we should be New York City. I didn't  
17 move out here to be New York City and I think  
18 we can personally take everything we have now  
19 and look at that and see what we can fix and  
20 what we don't need to fix.

21 So, again, I am really not excited  
22 about the change. I am not excited because  
23 it's the same old rhetoric I hear all time.

24 I also heard that the developer is  
25 planning to purchase the property that he

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2 wants to develop. My question is once it is  
3 his, where do we have a say? If we have a  
4 contract, it has to be clearly stated what the  
5 contract is, what we are getting as a Village  
6 from this big mega million deal here. What  
7 are they planning to bring into the community  
8 that we don't want? What are they planning to  
9 bring in that we do want?

10 In terms of the youth, include them  
11 in the conversation. They need to here. It  
12 is their future, they need to e present and  
13 they are going to be. They are in the future.  
14 We are all going to leave, all going to pass  
15 and leave. And this plan we are making for  
16 our youth and for our community, the youth are  
17 going to be in the future so they need to be  
18 at the meeting and know what is at stake.

19 Personally I am not for mega million  
20 change. I am for looking at our community,  
21 it's a beautiful community. I am tired of  
22 people talking about how bad Hempstead is.  
23 Hempstead is not bad. Other communities have  
24 the same problems with the youth that we have  
25 here. I left my door open and gone to the

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2 doctor for five hours and nobody broke into  
3 the house. Hempstead is not a bad place, it's  
4 getting a bad reputation. We have issues just  
5 like any family has issues. We have some sons  
6 who are good, some daughters who are bad and  
7 vice versa.

8 But I am saying to the community, not  
9 to the developer, and to the Board here, I  
10 don't know who you people are. I don't come  
11 out as much as I used to, but talking to the  
12 community of Hempstead, you need to look at it  
13 very, very well and really look at what you  
14 are getting into and buying into, because I  
15 think there are promises made here that just  
16 won't happen.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. FORDE: Are there any other  
19 Hempstead residents that would like to speak  
20 that haven't spoken already?

21 MS. WEAVER: Good afternoon.

22 My name is Kimberly Weaver and I live  
23 at 180 Hilton, and I am also a member of the  
24 Urban League of Long Island Professionals as  
25 well as the Girl Scout troop leader on

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2 Terrace Avenue for Troop 4100.

3 And I would just like to say that I  
4 hope that the CBA will consider providing more  
5 jobs for minorities and minority businesses as  
6 well as affordable housing for young  
7 professionals. I know I don't want to have to  
8 go into the city to get affordable housing, I  
9 would like to stay on Long Island. I live on  
10 Long Island for the past 14 years. Please  
11 consider that and also consider the youth as  
12 well. I know my Girl Scouts are not here to  
13 represent but they do need an outlet where  
14 they can go during the summer when they are  
15 out of school. And I know I have spoken to my  
16 girls and we close during the summer, so they  
17 have told me they are just at the house doing  
18 nothing, and we can't see that.

19 So when you are developing this plan,  
20 please consider that.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. FORDE: Dave Hanson?

23 MR. HANSON: Hello, my name is Dave  
24 Hanson.

25 I live at 47 Courtenay Road by

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2 Hofstra University.

3 I heard about the Renaissance, I  
4 heard about what was going on. I was an  
5 engineer for Port Authority for many years,  
6 and also Nassau County. And I am very  
7 troubled with what I see going on in  
8 Hempstead.

9 Hempstead is really the heart of Long  
10 Island. And I am thinking about running for  
11 Mayor for the Village of Hempstead in March.  
12 And when I go to Terrace, because I have  
13 apartments at Bedell also, and I see what  
14 people are going through throughout the years,  
15 they have vets over there and they are hooked  
16 on drugs and they need help. And some of  
17 their kids are doing the same thing that they  
18 are doing. We need to put a stop to it.

19 I filed a permit last week to do an  
20 event on Terrace. I am going to block off the  
21 street from Jackson all the way to Atlantic,  
22 and it will be Hanson Group Presents Hope for  
23 Terrace.

24 Also, we just signed a major contract  
25 with New York City about Guns Down, Life Up.

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2 Mayor Bloomberg is using that to bring hope  
3 and peace in New York City. We are going to  
4 bring it right here in Hempstead. Hempstead  
5 is the heart of Long Island, because when my  
6 family came here from Sweden back in the  
7 1680s, John Hanson, the first president of the  
8 United States under the Articles of  
9 Confederation, I am the fifth generation of  
10 that man. And they came here and they helped  
11 all of the Indians. And it was all farmland,  
12 if you Google land of John Hanson in  
13 Hempstead, you will see it was all the  
14 farmland was beautiful.

15 And what I see going on here, there  
16 is so much money that was given to Hempstead  
17 under David Paterson, all those guys that  
18 worked with them short years, I was at the  
19 Waldorf with Andrew Cuomo. I know everybody  
20 because we are 100,000,000 strong.

21 The one thing I can tell you is we  
22 have been watching Hempstead for ten years.  
23 That's why I came here from New York City,  
24 built a house at Hofstra. I see the  
25 corruption going on at Hofstra University,

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2 what they are doing, they are bringing in kids  
3 and they sold the building on Hempstead  
4 Turnpike. The Constitution says if a college  
5 brings kids in, they must have a place for  
6 them to live. Now what Hofstra is doing, they  
7 sold those dormitories. They get economic  
8 development money to do those, now it is  
9 private.

10 Now what is going on, they are taking  
11 over our neighborhood, all the houses, and  
12 what we are doing the kids are making  
13 residency here and they are applying for  
14 student loans. It is criminal and it is wrong  
15 because Hofstra should have dormitories.

16 I am about to file a \$300 million  
17 class action lawsuit against Hofstra and  
18 Popeye's and bring back this neighborhood to  
19 what it's supposed to be. And we have the  
20 signatures.

21 My school district where my kids go  
22 to is Uniondale. Mr. Bruno is the principal  
23 there for my two boys, but I am going to tell  
24 you something, we are watching. We are  
25 watching everything that is going on in the

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2 development and I am making sure these guys  
3 are not using inferior material.

4 I was with Ralph Suozzi last week and  
5 he said there was a contracting company that  
6 poured some cement, these guys told him to  
7 stop, it was not state standard, he wouldn't  
8 pay it. That's what we want our Mayor to do.  
9 When I look at these rusty guard railings on  
10 Peninsula Boulevard, see the inferior brick on  
11 Main Street under this Mayor's watch, enough  
12 is enough. I am telling you, the holiday is  
13 over and I am telling you, change is coming to  
14 Hempstead. And these developers better watch  
15 it. We are watching all the way from  
16 Hempstead, to Andrew Cuomo's office in New  
17 York State, to the federal government, Eric  
18 Holder.

19 I am telling you, the holidays are  
20 over and there is nothing we can't find out  
21 because we have technology.

22 And that's all I have to say.

23 MR. PEGUES: Good afternoon.

24 My name is Corey Pegues. I live on  
25 Caroline Avenue -- I'm sorry. I will defer.

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2 MS. FIGLIOSI: My name is Zetta  
3 Figliosi.

4 I am a Hempstead resident. I live on  
5 37 Hilton Avenue, close to the mall in  
6 Hempstead. I heard the last two speakers and  
7 I agree with what they are demanding and I  
8 don't want to repeat.

9 The problem is that with this  
10 development that all the land that is going to  
11 be sold by the Village is going to be sold to  
12 one developer and we didn't have other people  
13 also to bid between and get better or another  
14 offer. The effect of the problem is we don't  
15 know exactly, as they said before, what will  
16 happen with this development. What the  
17 results? What kind of business are they going  
18 to have? What kind of buildings are they  
19 going to build? This makes me concerned a  
20 lot.

21 Now, as the last speaker said, he is  
22 watching what the developer is going to do or  
23 what has been done by other developers already  
24 here in our Village. My experience to that  
25 point about watching what developers are

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2 doing, I have seen certain developments on  
3 Main Street, on Front Street, on Peninsula  
4 Boulevard, one across the street from my house  
5 on Hilton Avenue, close to the corner of  
6 Fulton Avenue and Hempstead Turnpike. Nobody  
7 is watching. They have left the developer to  
8 do whatever he likes. He does nothing. Not  
9 in even Zone Board violations. The Village  
10 code. Nobody is watching. Not the Building  
11 Department, not the Mayor's office, nobody.  
12 Nobody is watching.

13 So I am very much uncertain if all  
14 these good things we are hearing about this  
15 huge development will be so good as it sounds  
16 right now. So I am afraid and I am afraid  
17 because I live now across the street from the  
18 development of 66 units, and they have built a  
19 huge building. I have single family house.  
20 Hilton Avenue is a single-family development  
21 street and they have this huge building across  
22 the street of mine on the sidewalk. All the  
23 sidewalk, no grass around, no setbacks and it  
24 is in front of my house this building as a  
25 monster. So I don't know what will happen

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2 with new development, you know, it is not what  
3 I am afraid of. Worst thing, I am afraid I  
4 will be forced out of my house because I am  
5 very close to this development and I have been  
6 there 35 years. I have a nice house with a  
7 big backyard. I was enjoying Hilton Avenue  
8 very much.

9 Right now I have a 66-unit building  
10 like a monster and they are going to be 100  
11 cars parked outside there and they are going  
12 in and out every day. And the same thing will  
13 happen with the other development, a lot of  
14 traffic, a lot of pollution and overcrowding  
15 the schools and many other issues. And a lot  
16 of points that you mentioned before.

17 MR. FORDE: Thank you, ma'am.

18 MR. PEGUES: That is a hard act to  
19 follow.

20 Good afternoon to the Chairman and to  
21 the Board. Sorry for my attire.

22 My name is Corey Pegues. I live at  
23 26 Caroline Avenue.

24 MR. FORDE: Can you spell your name?

25 MR. PEGUES: C.O.R.E.Y., P.E.G.U.E.S.

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2 I am sorry I was late for the meeting  
3 but I had some prior business. I didn't hear  
4 the presentation. I heard a few comments. I  
5 just want to add my two cents.

6 For me being a resident of this  
7 community, and actually my daughter just  
8 purchased a house over here, and that's two in  
9 the family that live in the neighborhood. For  
10 me, safety is number one key for me. Anywhere  
11 in the world all ethnicities, everyone wants  
12 to be safe and Hempstead Village is not a safe  
13 area right now.

14 I don't know where this young lady  
15 lives, but the newspapers are not lying, the  
16 graffiti around here is not lying. I don't  
17 care what we develop in this Village, if we  
18 don't make the Village safe, nobody is going  
19 to come. For me that's the first thing,  
20 making sure we clean up the area, get rid of  
21 the drug dealers, making sure babies could go  
22 to that water tower, that park over there,  
23 clean it up, then start developing. Let's get  
24 rid of the riffraff and develop this  
25 neighborhood.

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2 Jobs, jobs, jobs while we are  
3 developing, jobs. A lot of people don't want  
4 change. Let's get change, because I know,  
5 being a commanding officer in a precinct, one  
6 of the more violent precincts in the City of  
7 New York, when they brought gentrification.  
8 You should see Brooklyn now, they cleaned it  
9 up, they developed it. We didn't take care of  
10 it. Developers came in and cleaned it up, and  
11 guess what, the houses went from \$300,000 to  
12 1.2 million. And I would love for my house  
13 that just dropped \$70,000 to go up 3 or  
14 \$400,000.

15 So jobs, jobs, jobs. Education is  
16 the key and make sure we clean this place up.  
17 And there will be some kinks in it, we know.  
18 And the people are going to hold your feet to  
19 the fire, as you can see. But I am just  
20 speaking for me and my family, we would like  
21 to see change, good change that will help the  
22 community. And let's clean this place up,  
23 help the police department get rid of these  
24 drug dealers and shooters that are doing all  
25 this stuff and our house values can go up.

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2 Thank you very much.

3 MR. FORDE: Are there any more  
4 Hempstead residents that wish to speak?

5 MS. RYAN: My name is Caprice Ryan,  
6 29 Caroline Avenue.

7 I had brought up some concerns and I  
8 am concerned that it falls on deaf ears. I  
9 have signed contracts all my life, written up  
10 contracts, read contracts. My concern is  
11 about this is, have any of you signed a  
12 contract that said "pay to the best of your  
13 ability"?

14 I have never signed a contract that  
15 said you can do anything to the best of your  
16 ability. And I am concerned that you have  
17 allowed this to happen, that it said in any  
18 contract to do anything to the best of your  
19 ability. I don't see in this contract where  
20 we have held them in any kind of  
21 responsibility. Where are the stop places  
22 where if they doesn't do what they say they  
23 are going to do, what are we going to do to  
24 hold them accountable? What is going to  
25 happen if they don't come up with money?

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2 I am going to give you a perfect  
3 example. I want everybody here to go down to  
4 South Franklin. A development was allowed to  
5 be built where there is eight houses on one  
6 property. The same developer built across  
7 the street, he ran out of money, all that's  
8 standing there now are foundations. He had no  
9 more money. I am saying it that way. I know  
10 it is any more money because I do speak well.  
11 But I am a little angry right now because what  
12 happens when they don't get the money they  
13 need for this massive development?

14 My concern is we have not held them  
15 to accountability. We are the United States  
16 of America. We are not in Columbia, we are  
17 not in China. I don't believe in monopoly.  
18 To allow one company to come and say they can  
19 buy up all of this land, I have a problem with  
20 that. Now, had they said we are going to  
21 allow a massive development, somewhere  
22 something went wrong, there was a runaway  
23 freight train happening here and we did not  
24 look into this. To give somebody all this  
25 land, sounds like Manhattan Island all over

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2 again. \$24 an some trinkets.

3 I live here. My husband has lived in  
4 the same house for 43 years. My house went  
5 from \$395,000 to \$195,000. And we were smart  
6 and didn't do like a lot of people and didn't  
7 take all the equity out of our home, thank  
8 God, because we would be upside down right  
9 now.

10 So what happens if they don't get the  
11 investment in it? If I am not mistaken, I  
12 just saw them put a bid in for Nassau  
13 Coliseum, if I am not mistaken. Did you see  
14 that on the news? Renaissance Downtown, where  
15 are they getting the money for that too?  
16 Where is all this money coming from? I want  
17 my questions answered.

18 So you can hit that bell, but my  
19 address is 29 Caroline Avenue. I want to know  
20 where is the money coming from? Put it in my  
21 address, Caprice Ryan, 29 Caroline Avenue. I  
22 want to see where the money is coming from.  
23 If you can't prove you have the bills to  
24 support it, we should not be supporting this  
25 effort.

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2 MR. FORDE: Are there any other  
3 Hempstead residents that have not spoken that  
4 wish to make a statement?

5 Give your name and address, please.

6 MS. DRYE: My name is Theresa Drye,  
7 T.H.E.R.E.S.A., D.R.Y.E.

8 And I am at 17 Hellman Boulevard,  
9 Hempstead. I am president of Democracy  
10 Inspiring Voter Awareness, better known as  
11 DIVA.

12 I would just like to say that a lot  
13 of people in our community are in despair. My  
14 family has been in this community since the  
15 '50s, and I remember my grandmother telling me  
16 of a time where Martin Luther King came to  
17 what is Martin Luther King Drive now, and he  
18 brought a sense of hope to our community, hope  
19 to America itself. And he had a dream for our  
20 community.

21 A lot of people feel that that dream  
22 is dead, but I submit to you that it is not  
23 dead, it is gasping for air. It is on life  
24 support. But as a community, we must stand  
25 together, we must protect our families. We

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2 must protect our properties and we must  
3 protect our future.

4 So I ask you to join an organization,  
5 get involved, and protect your future.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. FORDE: Is there anyone else who  
8 wishes to speak?

9 MS. SMITH: Hello, my name is Letha  
10 Smith. I live at 482 Front Street. I spell  
11 my name L.E.T.H.A. Smith is the last name.

12 I wasn't going to say anything  
13 because I really didn't know what this was all  
14 about today, but I have a problem with the  
15 Village of Hempstead, particularly with the  
16 Mayor and his departments.

17 The Building Department to me is not  
18 a Building Department. When it comes to  
19 enforcing certain violations for landlords, we  
20 have a big issue here. My concern is if we  
21 are talking about having this Renaissance  
22 Development come into our Village, how is it  
23 going to really be enforced through the kind  
24 of operation we have now here in the Village  
25 with the Building Department? You can call

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2 and ask about your building not being clean,  
3 your super never on site, inferior work being  
4 done within the apartments. And when you call  
5 the Mayor's office or the Building Department,  
6 they say they will send someone out and  
7 nothing ever gets done.

8 I have been in this Village over 20  
9 something years and I have been through three  
10 different landlords. First one, she was  
11 impeccable. Any time you had a problem, she  
12 took care of it. Then they went down the  
13 line, and I am not going to say what race they  
14 were. And it got to now when we have a  
15 landlord is landlord from hell. This landlord  
16 does not fix up anything, and I am kind of  
17 scared that this is by design, to let these  
18 buildings run down for whatever the plan for  
19 the future as far as Renaissance coming  
20 through and moving us out.

21 And I would like to know since they  
22 are talking about properties being bought up,  
23 I would like to know if my building is one of  
24 the properties? Because I feel like if that  
25 may be the case why my building is not being

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2 maintained and why these violations are not  
3 being looked upon and not being enforced? Is  
4 my building, 482 Front Street, one of these  
5 building that they are thinking about buying  
6 up? I feel like if that's the case I might  
7 be one of these people that would have to  
8 leave Hempstead, and I don't want to go. So  
9 please answer my question.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. FORDE: What happens is that we  
12 have gone through everyone that spoke.

13 If anyone wants to speak again, you  
14 can set an appointment to speak with the  
15 Board. I know it is not 5:00 yet, but we are  
16 not going to do a round robin. If you have  
17 something you want to bring to the Board,  
18 bring it to us directly and I will speak to  
19 you.

20 Is there anyone who has not spoken  
21 yet who wishes to speak?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Who picked the  
23 Board?

24 MR. FORDE: The Mayor picked the  
25 Board.

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2 Is there anyone that hasn't spoken  
3 who wants to speak?

4 MS. BRAZLEY: Can the committee  
5 reconsider since there is a lot of people that  
6 finish giving two minutes and we will be  
7 brief.

8 MR. FORDE: Give us a couple of  
9 seconds.

10 (Recess taken.)

11 MR. FORDE: All right, we will give  
12 two minutes, so if you want to come back up  
13 and say something.

14 Restate your name.

15 MR. MATHEMATICS: Supreme  
16 Mathematics, Youth and Power Institute.

17 The thing I want to talk about right  
18 now is the youth and some of the things that  
19 happen in communities where we forget our  
20 youth. We don't build institutions that we  
21 manage and maintain for our youth, and the  
22 biggest problem with that is funding. Most of  
23 the youth programs get defunded, nothing to do  
24 with the young people.

25 I propose to have a cultural

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2 performing arts center for cultural events  
3 that are social events in the community and  
4 the buildings that are being built there will  
5 be fees that go to youth components that will  
6 bring money for those development projects and  
7 houses and building developments inside the  
8 DOZ, the DOZ funding for youth programs and  
9 cultural arts programs so that we don't have  
10 situations where we have a defunded program in  
11 the Village of Hempstead.

12 The problem with most facilities is  
13 that they don't have extra ways of getting  
14 funding once they develop themselves. If we  
15 create a Community Benefits Agreement, inside  
16 the Community Benefits Agreement, a fee -- for  
17 cultural and performing arts organizations and  
18 organizations that work on community projects  
19 such that may have outdoor concerts, social  
20 events, that have a bank that they could come  
21 to, like a cultural arts center or program of  
22 that nature, where the young people can  
23 guarantee they will have a place to utilize.

24 There is a lot of young people that  
25 are very talented in our community. What we

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2 don't understand is that technology is the  
3 going thing. Art and technology go hand and  
4 hand. There's nothing that we buy that  
5 doesn't have art a part of it, whether it's  
6 graphic art, whether it's media art, there is  
7 some type of art form is being developed.

8 Our young people can generate much  
9 income from the arts if we have art facilities  
10 that can be managed here in the community.  
11 Some of the money that is a part of this \$2  
12 billion project, should be able to go to youth  
13 development funds that can create cultural  
14 arts and performing arts organizations and  
15 have them grow here in the Village of  
16 Hempstead, because we know lots of rappers,  
17 singers and dancers, actors and performers,  
18 that come from our region to that don't get  
19 financial support.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. FORDE: Next?

22 MS. BRAZLEY: Thank you for  
23 consideration.

24 I just wanted to say that I gave  
25 Mr. Benjamin a packet of materials and asked

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2 him to share them with the group. I want to  
3 say because I what intended to talk about  
4 dealt more with the Center For the Study of  
5 Social Policy, it's a think tank organization  
6 in Washington, I believe, but they have a  
7 website that has a lot of great information,  
8 that talks about the kind of institutional or  
9 organizational development that I think would  
10 be very beneficial to this group to look at  
11 and embrace.

12 We are not looking for a panel of  
13 citizens and neighbors. We are looking to you  
14 all to do the moral work of ensuring that we  
15 begin to put in place a community asset  
16 institutional structure that will give us the  
17 capacity to do the kind of things we need to  
18 do to sustain the development that the Urban  
19 America or the Village or whoever is  
20 developing. They identify core capacities  
21 that communities need. This is not something  
22 that we are going to stumble upon and do.  
23 This is a concerted organizational effort that  
24 will build on the community assets that we  
25 have.

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2 We have major service organizations,  
3 youth organizations. We have all kinds of  
4 grassroots driven initiatives. We have the  
5 capacity of building entities like New York  
6 for Communities For Change. We are a major  
7 resource for federal housing money. We need  
8 to see you guys drive the development of a  
9 political commitment to coordinate our  
10 existing resources to develop the capacity  
11 that we need. We don't need to be  
12 lollygagging. We don't need you to sit here  
13 and listen to people vent. We need concrete  
14 action.

15 We need to see players at the table.  
16 We don't want you to beg these developers for  
17 jobs. We would like to see you put in place  
18 an entity that will ensure that our basic  
19 protections under the law are met, that our  
20 minority participation goals within projects  
21 in this Village and the school district are  
22 met. We don't need to recreate the wheel, but  
23 we do need courageous, forward-looking  
24 entities to understand that we need an  
25 organizational structure. We need access to

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2 new research and policies, and we need to  
3 figure out why the things that we do have  
4 don't work for us.

5 The National Center for the Study of  
6 Social Policy and HUD, I think are very good  
7 places to start to look at the kind of  
8 community development entity that we need you  
9 guys to help us put in place.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. FORDE: State your name.

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: My name is Jonathan  
13 Hernandez. I live at 24 Stowe Place.

14 I will keep it short and sweet. I  
15 need a livable wage. That is it. I need  
16 jobs. There are a whole bunch of contractors.  
17 I work for one of them. We get slaved, we  
18 don't get paid on time, there is no overtime,  
19 there is no breaks, no nothing. I just need a  
20 liveable wage. I will do any work, any day  
21 possible. But \$10 an hour, you know, that is  
22 not a liveable wage with no overtime, no way  
23 to get more money. I have been at work since  
24 6:00 in the morning and I am working twice as  
25 hard. I just need a livable wage.

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2 That's it.

3 MR. FORDE: State your name.

4 MR. SAIEVA: My name is Bob Saieva.

5 I was here before talking.

6 I personally have met with Don Monti  
7 at his office, reviewed all the paperwork, or  
8 most of it. It is a lot of paperwork. I  
9 believe that he really truly wants to put this  
10 agreement together fair for the community.

11 Yes, you have to abide by certain  
12 rules, whatever. We need charter schools.  
13 The greatest thing we need -- a lot of the  
14 problems, from what I understand, is the  
15 school system. Well, let's create six or  
16 eight charter schools. One for fundraising  
17 alone -- not fundraising, grant writing.  
18 There is all kinds grant writing and all kinds  
19 of state programs, federal programs and the  
20 Ford Foundation and whatever would love to  
21 give money to help the working poor, create  
22 jobs, rejuvenate all this in a right and fair  
23 manner. But we have to do it. We have to  
24 make vocational schools.

25 I contacted a couple of big schools.

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2 And they are willing to come over here, work  
3 with some of the colleges, help us with all  
4 the funding or some of the funding, and it  
5 needs some funding from the Village, some  
6 funding from Monti. And the rest, they write  
7 grants, whatever we need. We have to do it,  
8 A.B.C.D.E.F.G. and follow the plans from  
9 beginning to the end. And do the paperwork  
10 right, all that so it gets done.

11 This program I think is great. A lot  
12 of people are doing a lot of work. Now it has  
13 time to write it down, get it legal, do it and  
14 follow through with it. For the next ten  
15 years, not for six months or whatever it is.  
16 And do these programs, start as nonprofit  
17 employment agency where you can watch some of  
18 it, control some of it.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. FORDE: You will be the last  
21 speaker.

22 Give your name and address, please.

23 MS. CROSSIN: Good afternoon. My  
24 name is Mary Crossin.

25 Before I go forth, I first want to

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2 piggyback on what the brother said about the  
3 charter schools. I don't think we need more  
4 charter schools. I think we need to fix up  
5 our public schools. That's what we need to  
6 do. I disagree with the charter school.

7 My question is about affordable  
8 housing. We have read lots of documents that  
9 have been put out, and there was one that said  
10 10 percent affordable housing. We know that's  
11 not going to accommodate not even 10 percent  
12 of the people in Hempstead.

13 My concern is, and I've said this  
14 more than one time in this podium, we need 35  
15 percent housing. We need the tiers. We know  
16 that -- I would say 70 percent of the people  
17 in Hempstead do not make the kind of money  
18 that they are saying they are going to build  
19 these buildings for, the luxury apartments  
20 coming here. That's a major problem to me.

21 I live in Hempstead. I also own a  
22 home in Hempstead and I also have a deep  
23 concern about that because the people who are  
24 here, they do not, they are going to start  
25 pushing people out. And we know

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2 subcontractors will come in and start buying  
3 up properties, and they start saying okay,  
4 they offer you money. And we all know there  
5 are people who will take the money. And then  
6 if they want your property, then they are  
7 going to put the pressure on you. That's a  
8 big problem to me. I know and I spoke about  
9 it more than once. We need the CBA. We need  
10 the CBA signed.

11 A major problem I have is who is  
12 going to be sitting at the negotiation table?  
13 Who is going to be the one who is going to be  
14 here to see how the CBA is being played out?  
15 Because I do a lot of negotiation in my union,  
16 and we know how this works, so we are going to  
17 keep our eyes on it and will be watching to  
18 make sure it is done for the community.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. FORDE: With that statement, we  
21 are going to close the meeting.

22 Remember that on Thursday, at 6:00  
23 p.m., we are going to do this again over at  
24 Kennedy Park. Anyone who wants to speak can  
25 meet us there then.

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We will call this to an end.

Everybody have a nice day.

We will take everything that you said into consideration, all the paperwork and everything that you gave us, thank you.

(Time noted: 4:00 p.m.)

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