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4	NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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6	RICHARD NICOLELLO
7	PRESIDING OFFICER
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10	LEGISLATIVE SESSION
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13	County Executive and Legislative Building
14	1550 Franklin Avenue
15	Mineola, New York
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18	Tuesday November 27, 2018
19	2:18 P.M.
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2	APPEARANCES:
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4	LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO
5	Presiding Officer
6	9th Legislative District
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8	LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD
9	Alternate Presiding Officer
10	4th Legislative District
11	
12	LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS
13	Minority Leader
14	1st Legislative District
15	
16	LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE
17	2nd Legislative District
18	
19	LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES
20	3rd Legislative District
21	
22	LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE
23	5th Legislative District
24	
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2	LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III
3	6th Legislative District
4	
5	LEGISLATOR VINCENT T. MUSCARELLA
6	8th Legislative District
7	
8	LEGISLATOR ELLEN BIRNBAUM
9	10th Legislative District
10	
11	LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON
12	11th Legislative District
13	
14	LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT
15	13th Legislative District
16	
17	LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER
18	14th Legislative District
19	
20	LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.
21	15th Legislative District
22	
23	LEGISLATOR ANDREW DRUCKER
24	16th Legislative District
25	

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2	LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER
3	17th Legislative District
4	
5	LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN
6	18th Legislative District
7	
8	LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS
9	19th Legislative District
10	
11	MICHAEL PULITZER
12	Clerk of the Legislature
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1	Full Leg - 11-27-18
2	LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
3	Gaylor would you lead us in the pledge.
4	(Whereupon Pledge of Allegiance was
5	recited.)
6	LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
7	Legislator Gaylor. Thank you all for
8	attending today's hearing. This is quite a
9	turnout on a Tuesday afternoon. Demonstrates
10	the interest that there is in this county, in
11	our region for this project and why we should
12	go about this in a very deliberate, very
13	thoughtful way as to evaluate the proposed
14	partnership agreement.
15	I would like to thank everyone for
16	attending today's hearing. Real briefly, I'm
17	not going to have an elaborate opening
18	statement, I know you want to hear from the
19	interested parties as soon as possible, but we
20	will receive testimony from Brooklyn Sports
21	Entertainment as well as RXR about their
22	partnership agreement, about their ideas and
23	concepts for what can be done on the Coliseum
24	property. Then we will have a presentation by

the administration as to the process that has

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- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 been followed and we will then open it up to
- 3 public comment.
- 4 There are some major stakeholders
- 5 from our county and from our region. If
- 6 anyone is under time constraints and needs to
- 7 go ahead of a particular segment please let us
- 8 know. We will try to accommodate your
- 9 schedule. I have at least one request to go
- 10 directly after BSE and RXR.
- 11 Having said that, I will turn it
- over to our Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams if
- 13 he has an opening statement.
- 14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you
- 15 Presiding Officer and welcome. By the
- outpouring of people that we see out here this
- is a great first start to get a greater
- understanding of what exactly will be
- occurring at the Nassau Hub. I do want to
- 20 take the opportunity to thank the county
- 21 executive for putting this to the forefront
- 22 and getting us to this point. I think many of
- us who have been around for the last 20, 30,
- 40 years have heard about the Hub development
- for quite some time. We've been through the

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- Wangs as well as the referendums, eventually
- 3 to the Ratners and now with RXR. But we are
- 4 at this point. I do believe that is a great
- 5 opportunity for to us get a greater
- 6 understanding on how we will be able to move
- 7 forward. And I would thank the county
- 8 executive for that.
- 9 I would like to take the
- opportunity to thank the Presiding Officer for
- scheduling the hearing so the public can have
- 12 a great opportunity to understand the
- 13 project.
- 14 Obviously I want to take the
- opportunity to thank RXR for taking the
- leadership roll in being here today, as well
- 17 as with BSE and Brett Yormark for their role
- in developing the Coliseum as well as RXR's
- 19 plans to develop the surrounding land.
- I want to take the opportunity, I
- 21 know there is going to be a presentation,
- 22 obviously there are many components to this
- particular proposal, but we want to make sure
- there is no community that's left behind. I
- see the level of folks in the audience that

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 represent labor, and from our standpoint it's
- 3 extremely important that this project not just
- 4 be a beacon of light for the Nassau Hub but be
- 5 an opportunity for many of us, whether in
- 6 labor or part of a larger community, or
- 7 residents or fire districts, library districts
- 8 have an opportunity to grow in this as well.
- 9 That's why it's so important that
- we are able to discuss at some point during
- this hearing the confines and structure of a
- 12 project labor agreement as well as a community
- benefits agreement, so that we ensure that the
- 14 communities that are surrounding, as well as
- in this area, are benefiting from this project
- in its entirety as well.
- 17 Also, I just want to take the
- opportunity in full disclosure to take an
- opportunity as something that's personal to
- 20 me. As many of you probably already know, I
- am a steward and an employee of the Northwell
- 22 Health System. I want to make sure that it's
- 23 well known as the discussions occur between
- 24 RXR and Northwell I did not take part in any
- of those discussions and as those discussions

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 arise where the county will take part in them
- 3 I will be recusing myself from those
- 4 discussions. From that standpoint, I wanted
- 5 to make sure everybody has that full
- 6 disclosure in the public notice as well and
- 7 thank you Presiding Officer for the
- 8 opportunity to present this to the public.
- 9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 10 very much. Turn it over now to Mr. Brett
- 11 Yormark and Scott Rechler for their
- 12 presentation.
- MR. YORMARK: Thank you Rich and
- 14 everyone for being here today. It's an
- exciting time for all of Long Island. Today
- 16 you will hear our vision regarding the future
- of the Hub. I want to reiterate, and I've
- 18 said this before, this will continue to be a
- 19 transparent process and we welcome all key
- 20 stakeholder comments. In fact, my colleagues
- 21 have spent the better part of the last few
- 22 months meeting with 50 plus key stakeholders
- throughout the community and it has been
- 24 extremely helpful to have that engagement and
- cooperation from so many of you that are here

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 today.
- 3 As you know, I'm the CEO of BSE
- 4 Global. BSE oversees sport teams and venues
- 5 throughout the tri-state area, inclusive of
- 6 the Brooklyn Nets, Long Island Nets, the
- 7 business operations of the New York Long
- 8 Islanders as well as Barclay's Center the
- 9 Coliseum, Webster Hall and the downtown
- 10 Paramount in Brooklyn.
- 11 Since we reopened the Coliseum in
- 12 April of 2017 I think it's fair to say we have
- reintroduced the world of entertainment to
- 14 Long Island. However, that was only part of
- 15 the mission. The real prize here is
- development of the Hub.
- 17 Today you will hear our collective
- vision for what that development looks like,
- and I think it's important to state that many
- of you in the room have been here since the
- 21 beginning. As I see it, we have one last
- 22 great moment, one great last chance to get it
- 23 right. You will hear from my partner, Scott
- 24 Rechler, on why we are going to get it right
- 25 for Long Island and we are very excited to do

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 so.
- Before I give you a bit of an
- 4 overview of the Coliseum I would like everyone
- 5 to look at quick video we prepared which
- 6 highlights not only where we've been but most
- 7 importantly where we are going. Let's take a
- 8 look.
- 9 Thank you. So I'm going to kick
- things off today just to give everybody an
- overview of where we've been with the Coliseum
- the last 18 months and then obviously invite
- 13 Scott to take us through our collective vision
- 14 for development at the Hub.
- 15 First and foremost, I want to
- 16 remind everyone that the Coliseum renovation
- was a privately-funded endeavor to the tune of
- about \$180 million plus. And I'm proud to say
- in the first 18 months we truly recreated and
- 20 reimagined what people remember of the
- 21 Coliseum. We've staged over 300 events.
- We've hosted over a million people through our
- doors and we've welcome over 22 Grammy
- 24 awarding-winning artists. During that time
- 25 every quarter since we've opened we have

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 ranked number one in North America for mid
- 3 size venues in both Poll Star and Billboard
- 4 Magazine.
- 5 From where I sit, I'm happy but I'm
- 6 not satisfied. In many respects we're just
- 7 getting started and the best is yet to come
- 8 when you think about the Coliseum.
- 9 As far as the guest experience
- 10 certainly something that me and my team are
- 11 very proud of. We've put over 1200 people
- 12 back to work when we opened up the Coliseum in
- 13 April of 2017. All of them have been on
- 14 boarded and trained by Disney Institute,
- 15 providing an incredible experience for
- 16 customers here throughout Long Island. We
- have infused the Long Island Taste, which is
- our culinary offering. It's made up of over
- 19 40 partners right here from Long Island, both
- 20 suppliers and restaurateurs.
- One of the things that's not
- 22 mentioned on this slide that we take very
- 23 seriously everyday given the world we live in
- 24 is security. Most recently we made a major
- investment in bringing on board a 38 year

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- 2 veteran of the NYPD, a former chief, to
- oversee security at all BSE Global venues,
- 4 including the Coliseum. The impetus is on us
- 5 to make sure we provide a safe, friendly and
- 6 fun environment and we are committed to do
- 7 so. So ladies and gentlemen, Steven please
- 8 step up, Steven Powers, the new vice-president
- 9 of security for BSE Global who spent 38 years
- 10 as a member of the NYPD and a very
- 11 accomplished officer. Steven, thank you.
- 12 Also members of my team that I
- would like to acknowledge that have done a
- 14 terrific job since we opened the Coliseum is
- 15 Mr. Alton Bird, who is our vice president of
- 16 Long Island Nets. Nick Verowick, who heads up
- our programing efforts and takes all the
- 18 credit for the great content we have brought
- 19 bring here to Long Island.
- 20 Matt Felker, the former GM of NYCB
- 21 Live home of the Nassau Veterans Memorial
- 22 Coliseum. And the new general manager, Joe
- 23 Zino, who was born and raised here, grew up
- 24 going to the Coliseum and was a ten year plus
- 25 employee of the Coliseum before the

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 renovation. He's now been able to realize his
- 3 dream as the new general manager of the
- 4 Coliseum. Joe please stand up also and thank
- 5 you guys for all your hard work. Let's give
- 6 them a big hand.
- 7 On to the programing efforts. I am
- 8 candidly quite thrilled with the events we've
- 9 been able to stage at the Coliseum. From
- where I sit it's all about volume and variety
- and providing everyone throughout the
- 12 community with something they can enjoy. From
- combat sports to college basketball to family
- 14 entertainment to music, there's something for
- 15 everyone at the Coliseum. It's not just about
- 16 what's indoors though. In many respects it's
- what's going on outdoors. We've been able to
- 18 program the exterior of the building with the
- 19 Empire State Fair as well as SERP. We're also
- taking full advantage of the 60,000 square
- 21 foot X Hall at the Coliseum hosting over 75
- 22 events.
- Our core tenants at the Coliseum,
- obviously the Long Island Nets, who have
- become a fabric of the community given the

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- 2 commitment that Alton and his team have
- 3 certainly made. We will be announcing another
- 4 tenant in the coming month that will call the
- 5 Coliseum home. And obviously I'm thrilled and
- 6 happy to have played a role in bringing your
- 7 Islanders back to the Coliseum. The first of
- 8 21 home games that will be staged this
- 9 Saturday night. So, for all of you here that
- 10 have played a role in bringing the Islanders
- 11 back to the Coliseum where they deserve to be
- 12 I want to thank you for all your efforts and
- we're looking forward to hosting incredible
- 14 NHL now and into the future.
- 15 Communities are also something that
- we care about and obviously something you will
- 17 hear more about with Scott here in a moment.
- 18 NYCB Lives Cares is our umbrella of community
- outreach platform. It's defined in a couple
- of ways. What we do for veterans, arts and
- 21 education and health and wellness. Our health
- 22 and wellness initiative has been spearheaded
- 23 by Alton and Long Island Nets. Since they've
- 24 called Long Island home they have done over
- 25 200 community events, they've hosted over 40

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- 2 free clinics and they do quite a few mentoring
- 3 programs for students throughout the
- 4 communities.
- We're just getting started with our
- 6 outreach program under NYCB Cares. I'm a firm
- 7 believer in community relations is truly about
- 8 how people feel about you and our goal is to
- 9 get everyone to engage with us and to feel
- 10 really good about the things we are doing in
- 11 the community.
- 12 The things I have addressed over
- the last couple of minutes are great and
- 14 obviously we are making a difference today.
- 15 But for me it's also about how do we create a
- 16 sustainable foundation for the Coliseum well
- 17 into the future. I would like to address that
- 18 here for a moment. There are a couple of
- things we certainly have been working on and
- are committed to in order to make sure that
- 21 happens.
- 22 First and foremost, long-term
- 23 partners. Our programing partners. The Live
- Nations, the AEGs, the Feld Entertainments.
- These are partners we have been working with

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- for many years and will continue long into the
- 3 future.
- 4 Crossbooking is something that I
- 5 spoke about six or seven years ago when I was
- 6 right in this room. How we would create
- 7 synergy between Barclay and Coliseum and that
- 8 has come to fruition. In many cases what you
- 9 see in Brooklyn on a Thursday night you see
- 10 here in Long Island on a Friday night. That
- 11 will continue long into the future.
- Ownership, which is represented
- 13 today by Maureen Hanlon, the president of
- 14 Onexim Sports Entertainment. Maureen if you
- 15 could please stand up for a moment. Please
- 16 acknowledge Maureen.
- 17 Ownership continues to make
- investment in making sure that the Coliseum is
- 19 a viable and dynamic venue. We have invested
- in Webster Hall. We about to complete a
- 21 reservation there. We have invested in the
- 22 downtown Paramount. Those will serve as
- 23 feeder systems to both Barclay's and the
- 24 Coliseum. Our goal here is to connect with
- 25 artists early and often in their careers and

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 make sure they aspire to play Long Island and
- 3 Brooklyn.
- 4 Our competitive cost structure. As
- 5 many of you know, the only way that
- 6 entertainers are making money today is if they
- 7 tour. We need to have a competitive cost
- 8 structure in order for that to happen and we
- 9 do thanks to the collective efforts of many of
- 10 those people in the room here today as well as
- 11 my staff.
- 12 Our exhibition hall is a big
- 13 differentiator. There's more companies that
- 14 need big spaces here in Long Island and we are
- able to afford them that opportunity with the
- 16 60,000 square feet that exists at the
- 17 Coliseum. Our calendar flexibility provides
- us an opportunity to truly be opportunistic to
- bring the biggest and best events here. We've
- 20 established a US and UK advisory board made up
- of 50 of some of the top sports entertainment
- 22 executives in the world. All challenged and
- 23 engaged in curating content for Brooklyn and
- 24 Long Island.
- We have made sizeable investments

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- in tent pole events like the New York Open.
- Which is the only indoor tennis tournament in
- 4 the nation. Which will come here again for
- 5 the second time in February right here in Long
- 6 Island. We also have the Longines Masters
- 7 which will come this April. These are
- 8 examples of events that we co-own and that
- 9 we're bringing to Long Island exclusively.
- 10 The Long Island Nets as they grow
- 11 so does their presence in the community and in
- 12 our building.
- We have a right size capacity.
- 14 People ask me all the time Brett, why isn't
- the building 17 or 18,000. The really clear
- answer is there are very few artists today
- that can sell 17 or 18,000 tickets on a
- 18 regular basis. We've right-sized between 14
- and 15,000, which gives us a competitive
- 20 advantage going after those artists. And our
- 21 Los Angeles office has played a critical role
- 22 in driving content to Long Island. That
- office was opened shortly before we made our
- commitment to Long Island on recreating the
- 25 Coliseum and it's been very fruitful in

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 bringing great events.
- 3 All of these things I've outlined
- 4 truly matter. But the most significant thing
- 5 is the development at the Hub. That will be
- 6 the impetus for future growth and a
- 7 sustainable and dynamic environment in Long
- 8 Island. I would like to speak to that for a
- 9 moment before Scott takes the mic and speaks
- 10 to our collective vision.
- 11 First and foremost, I want to make
- 12 it crystal clear, it was always our intent to
- exercise our rights under the lease. We did
- 14 not do that in the first 18 months because we
- 15 needed to define the Coliseum and do it the
- 16 right way. It was always thought that
- development around the Coliseum would be phase
- 18 two. We took that responsibility very
- 19 seriously and we went through a very
- 20 exhaustive search locally, regionally and
- 21 nationally to bring the best developer right
- 22 here to Long Island and we did that with Scott
- 23 Rechler and RXR. In fact, we put a criteria
- 24 together that we need to check the box and
- 25 Scott and his company checked all of them.

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 Just to go through a couple of them.
- We needed a developer that had
- 4 comprehensive capabilities. They know office
- 5 space. They know housing. They know hotel,
- 6 entertainment, retail and we were able to
- 7 check the box with RXR. We needed someone
- 8 that could execute. Because at the end of the
- 9 day vision is wonderful. But if you can't
- 10 execute that vision vision means nothing.
- 11 Scott has shown time and time again his
- 12 ability to execute.
- We needed a partner that truly had
- 14 the financial wherewithal to take on a project
- of this size and we found that in RXR and
- 16 Scott Rechler. We also needed a partner that
- could afford us the opportunity to continue to
- 18 run the Coliseum at the highest level. In
- order to do that we needed replacement parking
- 20 so that when we are building the vertical
- 21 parking we will not lose a beat. We were able
- 22 to find that with RXR.
- 23 As I got to know Scott and his team
- I realized his senior management team, they
- 25 have all been a part of some of the biggest

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 placemaking entertainment communities
- 3 throughout the tri-state area. There was no
- 4 decision to be made. Scott was the clear
- favorite, and I'm honored to be here sitting
- 6 next to him and giving him the mic in a
- 7 moment.
- I would like to walk you guys
- 9 through one last thing. The vote that we are
- 10 asking for next month is really about kicking
- off the development process. It will be one
- that will be truly transparent. We will be in
- 13 front of many of you time and time again
- 14 seeking your approval, seeking your engagement
- and guidance. And then ultimately, when we
- 16 have a final plan we will seek legislative
- 17 approval.
- I want to thank all of you for
- being here today. I'm honored to be here.
- 20 Honored to be part of this project. With
- 21 that, Scott, go ahead my friend.
- MR. RECHLER: He charges me up
- every time. I'm like give me the ball coach.
- 24 Thank you.
- I appreciate the opportunity to be

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 here today. I appreciate actually the
- opportunity. I had the chance to speak with
- 4 many of you or most of you with Brett over the
- 5 last couple of months to start sharing our
- 6 vision and get your feedback. As we go
- 7 through our presentation today you will have
- 8 the benefit of noting that a lot of your
- 9 feedback has already been incorporated into
- our commentary and that is the process that we
- intend on following as we go forward.
- 12 I appreciate the Presiding Officer
- setting up this special hearing because in the
- 14 basis of this transparency we'd like to be
- able to start sharing our current vision and
- 16 start encouraging that feedback.
- 17 The Minority Leader made a comment
- in the beginning, I just want to take a step
- 19 back. We've all been through this movie
- 20 before. We've all come here and talked about
- or seen people come and talk about
- 22 redeveloping the Coliseum site. I would like
- to share with you why this time is different.
- Why this time we are actually ultimately going
- 25 to get this done. It's really four

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 fundamental reasons in the mix.
- First is you have the two most
- 4 vested partners that are committed to the
- 5 success of the Coliseum. Obviously you just
- 6 heard from Brett and how BSE and their
- 7 commitment to what they've done in renovating
- 8 the Coliseum and the capital they invested is
- 9 critical. And with RXR, we own 2,000,000
- 10 square feet of office space around the
- 11 Coliseum. We are the largest owner and
- developer in all of Nassau County. For us
- this isn't just about success on the site.
- 14 This is about the success that this site
- brings to Nassau County and Long Island. And
- we are here for the long run. We aren't here
- to make a quick buck and quick development.
- 18 We are here for the long run, long time
- 19 vitality of Long Island and this site.
- The second reason is one of the
- 21 reasons that past projects have failed is that
- they've been tied to actual rebuilding or
- 23 renovating the Coliseum. So when you go back
- to the Lighthouse Project one reason that it
- 25 required the level of density it required was

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 you ultimately needed to build more to raise
- 3 three to \$400 million to renovate that
- 4 Coliseum. BSE has renovated the Coliseum and
- 5 has proven and validated that it can function
- 6 as an effective venue even without having the
- 7 Islanders there full time. So that's off the
- 8 table.
- 9 The third reason was to actually be
- able to unlock the value of the parking lot,
- the 60 acres of parking, you actually needed
- 12 to build parking garages. Any development you
- did required the capital to build those
- 14 parking garages. Today the state has already
- 15 set aside and the legislature has approved \$85
- million to build the parking that's required
- to go and move forward and take away the
- 18 problem of not having parking garages on the
- 19 site.
- The other piece of this is, this
- 21 relates to parking, how do you actually build
- on the site and take away the parking and
- still operate the Coliseum? By us partnering
- with BSE, we are now able to provide our
- 25 parking at the Omni and the RXR Plaza to be

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- able provide that additional parking so they
- 3 can continually operate and service the
- 4 customers while we are developing the site.
- 5 Not just the parking garages but frankly the
- 6 first phase of development.
- 7 Those are the four reasons that we
- 8 think this time is different and this time is
- 9 different for Long Island.
- The last piece of this is, every
- other time you've had to -- anyone who's gone
- 12 through this -- you've had to think about and
- had the uncertainty of a very challenging, and
- 14 what has been a very challenging, zoning
- 15 process. This time the Town of Hempstead had
- the foresight to go through a process and has
- actually put forward a low density zoning plan
- that's outstanding. As we approach, this
- we've made the determination that we are going
- to approach this within the four corners of
- 21 the spirit of that low density zoning plan
- that doesn't require us to get a rezoning of
- the site and that we are going to work with
- the town to expedite this as quickly as
- possible. That takes away another barrier for

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 this moving forward.
- So, it is time today to start this
- 4 process of finally converting those 60 acres
- of barren parking lots to a dynamic downtown
- 6 for all of us in Long Island.
- 7 As you think through Long Island as
- 8 we go forward we are the oldest suburbs and
- 9 we've had some great prosperity. But we
- 10 rested on our laurels for too long. It's time
- we need to stop playing from the 20th Century
- 12 playbook that worked for us for generations in
- the past and start competing for the 21st
- 14 Century.
- And in the 21st Century the number
- one most important ingredient for companies
- and communities alike is talent. You think
- about what's happening and you talk to CEOs
- around the country and they're thinking about
- where they're going to relocate they are
- looking for people that have the talent to
- 22 enable them to be competitive in the 21st
- 23 Century. Literally, when I sit with them they
- 24 actually will look at zip codes to see where
- those talent pools are and where they're

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 trending. When they have looked at Long
- 3 Island compared to other markets, even within
- 4 our region, we are not faring well in that
- 5 analysis.
- 6 So if we can turn that around and
- 7 start bringing the talent to Long Island, the
- young professionals, the mature professionals,
- 9 the people with the technical skills to
- 10 succeed, that ultimately will attract
- 11 companies to Long Island. What it does is
- 12 create a self-reinforcing cycle. Because the
- more companies come the more talent's
- 14 attracted to be here. The more talent that's
- 15 here the more companies want to be here.
- We've already seen that today. We
- have seen that today with even the plan, even
- 18 putting forward a plan and a vision and a
- 19 process for the Hub we've seen Northwell, the
- 20 employer in out county, come forward and say
- 21 hey, we want to be part of this and we're
- going to put forward a plan to do a 225,000
- 23 square foot innovation center because we
- believe we are starting something special and
- we want to be part of that.

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- 2 As we go forward and think through
- 3 the vision now for a moment. For us it's
- 4 creating a new dynamic. Live, work, play,
- 5 innovation district in the heart of Nassau
- 6 County. It consists of the following things
- 7 that are consistent with the zoning. 600,000
- 8 square feet of life sciences. 200,000 square
- 9 feet of destination entertainment retail.
- 10 Five hundred units of multifamily
- 11 residential. Hotels, we have two of them in
- 12 our plans. Public open space in the mix
- throughout the whole project.
- I want to take a second and put
- this in perspective in terms of scale. So
- when I say 600,000 square feet of office
- space, as a comparison RXR Plaza, which is
- 18 right across the street is 1.1 million square
- 19 feet. When we talk 200,000 of retail, as a
- 20 comparison, the Galleria at Westbury is over
- 21 330,000 square foot. And Roosevelt Mall is
- 22 2.4 million square feet.
- 23 As a comparison, when we talk about
- 500 units of residential, our project in Glen
- 25 Cove that we are building is 1100 units of

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 residential. If you look at Pilgrim State
- 3 it's 9,000 units of residential.
- I share these comparisons with you
- 5 to highlight that the proportionality of this
- 6 project relative to the size of the site is a
- 7 reasonable scale. And so as we go forward
- 8 through the process it will enable us to look
- 9 at the environmental work that's been done and
- 10 the impact in consideration of the scale of
- 11 what this project is.
- We also have addressed transit and
- 13 connectivity. We're going to talk about our
- 14 bus rapid transit plans and some thoughts that
- we have on what we have micro commuting and
- 16 micro busing to Mineola, Westbury and
- 17 Hempstead. As well as parking. We talked
- about the garages right now. There's a plan
- 19 for about 6200 spaces but that might change as
- 20 the uses changes. Clearly we want ultimately
- 21 this downtown to be pedestrian friendly. The
- thought process is to put the parking on the
- perimeter of the site so people park their car
- and walk through the downtown to energize
- 25 that.

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- I would like to show some
- 3 renderings. I will say it over and over
- 4 again, these all conceptual. These renderings
- 5 and site plans I'm going to show you are
- 6 conceptual. They are put out there to provoke
- 7 thought as works in progress by us. But as we
- 8 speak to stakeholders and members of the
- 9 community our objective is to change these
- 10 site plans. What you see today may not be
- 11 what you see tomorrow. So I put that out as a
- 12 precursor for all of them.
- 13 As you see on this site plan here
- 14 again, active streetscapes, mixed use
- buildings, a lot of lush green and people
- 16 places. It's not only a place for people to
- 17 live and work but a destination for all of
- 18 Long Island and those who are around Long
- 19 Island, around New York or visiting New York
- that they ultimately to go. We want this to
- 21 be a destination for anyone in the New York
- 22 area wanting to attend. I heard you.
- So another rendering you can see
- it's a place we also want to gather. We want
- this to be where Long Island is ultimately

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 saying when you get up in the morning let's go
- 3 to the Hub today. Let's spend the day at the
- 4 Hub. Let this be our downtown.
- 5 Then some aerials we put together
- 6 relative to the site plan. This should give
- you again a sense of the low density, walkable
- 8 downtown feel that we envision for the site.
- 9 Again, you can see it's proportionately
- 10 consistent with the surrounding community but
- 11 substantial enough to serve as true downtown.
- 12 That's the balance. The proportion to be
- 13 consistent with the community but substantial
- 14 enough to really have the scale and a feel for
- downtown. That's what we sought to do.
- 16 Here's another rendering and I
- think again it gives you a sense of the
- 18 vibrancy and activity of the site. To me, our
- 19 success will be measured and then when we look
- 20 back on this no one will ever remember that
- this was once 60 acres of barren parking lot.
- 22 They will think of this as Long Island's
- downtown.
- If turn to the next one. One of
- 25 the critical pieces of the site for us was the

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- innovation anchor. If you look at the shaded
- 3 area at the top corner of this slide you will
- 4 see it. As I mentioned earlier, for us to
- 5 compete in the 21st Century we must have been
- 6 to Long Island's rich history of innovation.
- 7 So we are thrilled that we were able to
- 8 announce this morning an agreement with
- 9 Northwell Health to serve as the anchor tenant
- of the Hub and their new innovation center and
- 11 some details surrounding that.
- 12 As everyone knows, I mentioned,
- 13 Northwell largest employee in New York and a
- 14 group that has spent a lot of time focused on
- this area and has a great affiliation with
- 16 Hofstra, with the Zucker School of Medicine,
- with the nursing school. A very natural place
- 18 for them to ultimately go. You will see on
- 19 the slide itself we have two different plans.
- 20 The one on the bottom sort of the nestles the
- 21 building in the corner as to where that would
- be. Right now we are pursuing up to 225,000
- 23 square feet. Include lab space, functions
- 24 needed to support clinical and medical
- 25 research activities. Facilities that can

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 accommodate a rang of exhibition, education,
- 3 training and conference activities.
- 4 The center will also not only
- 5 compliment the ground breaking research that's
- 6 being done at Northwell, Cold Spring Harbor,
- 7 Hofstra University, but also help train the
- 8 next generation of experts in the growing
- 9 field of life sciences where Long Island is
- 10 really distinguishing themselves as a regional
- 11 leader.
- We envision this innovation center
- to also offer educational programs. That's
- 14 something we heard a lot of feedback from our
- 15 stakeholders. People in elementary school, K
- through 12, college students, to stimulate
- interest in STEM careers or employment within
- 18 the health care, including building technical
- skills for job training, coding and other
- 20 skill sets.
- We are going to move now to the
- 22 next level, which is really talking about our
- entertainment, retail program which is shaded
- in pink. You can see it sort of borders the
- perimeter around the Coliseum and helps form

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- that sense of downtown. Instead of big box
- 3 retail store or large indoor mall, we are
- 4 envisioning experiential retail program to
- 5 truly make this site a live, work, play
- 6 community. There will be something for
- 7 everyone. Less about shopping and more about
- 8 experience itself. An immersive, actively
- 9 curated experience. It will be a community
- destination serving as a venue for culture
- events, engaging activities and community
- 12 gatherings. It's creating a sense of place.
- 13 It will be about service, personal engagement
- 14 and opportunities to energize the community at
- 15 large.
- Going to a store should be like
- 17 going on vacation. We're taking away a memory
- because you're touched by an emotion you want
- 19 to revisit. You're not serving a person who
- 20 needs an item. You're serving a person who
- 21 craves an experience. We are going to do by
- 22 creating interactive engaging retail programs,
- 23 food halls, restaurants that highlight the
- best foods and beverages from Long Island and
- a true taste of the best of what is New York.

1	Full Leg - 11-27-18
2	To develop the program we've spent
3	a lot of time not only talking to stakeholders
4	locally but we've been going around the
5	country looking at some of the best sport
6	entertainment venues and how they programed
7	them and what they've learned in trying to
8	take their best ideas and incorporate it
9	here.
10	One concept that we've been playing
11	with is we call Long Island Fame. Which we
12	would be able to create an entertainment venue
13	about, 50 to 60,000 square feet, where we have
14	concerts, sporting events that would actually
15	flow out into the outdoor programing where it
16	would be the place for destination. And we
17	would ask the sons and daughters that made
18	their success from Long Island, whether that's
19	in the acting, in the musical careers or
20	sports, to come back and be a part of that.
21	So you saw a lot of those faces in the video
22	that Brett put forward before. We want those
23	people to show up at Long Island Fame, and be
24	part of this community and give back to this

community and have it be sporadic. That no

25

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- one even knows when they are going to show up
- 3 there.
- 4 So there's a large sporting game
- 5 and the Islanders are playing the Stanley Cup
- 6 someplace they're there and they're there by
- 7 former Islanders that live on Long Island.
- 8 Really create that sense of community.
- 9 Same thing when we have activities
- that are happening around the country, the
- 11 world. If Long Islanders want to gather as a
- 12 community to be a part of that, to watch it
- together, to build the energy together and
- 14 that sense of us being one, for example,
- watching the World Cup, maybe one day the
- 16 Giants or Jets will be in the Super Bowl again
- and we can all go down there and watch that
- 18 together. I hope I can see that. The
- 19 Olympics. Celebrate the New Year together.
- 20 These are just a concept where we would
- 21 continually program the indoor and outdoor
- space to be the place to go if you're part of
- 23 Long Island and Long Island's community.
- Shifting now to the residential.
- 25 As I mentioned there are 500 units of

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 residential that we are planning here. You
- 3 can see it's yellow and underneath the
- 4 residences, which you can't see, it's actually
- 5 wrapped with life-style retail, restaurants,
- 6 coffee shops et cetera. And underneath that
- 7 is parking that will be self park with one set
- 8 of level below grade and one level of parking
- 9 above grade.
- 10 But when you really think about
- 11 what we are trying to solve on this
- 12 residential is we're trying to solve one of
- 13 Long Island's largest challenges in my
- opinion, which is we don't have affordable
- 15 housing for the young professionals. And
- 16 frankly, I don't think we have affordable
- housing for the maturing professionals that
- have worked hard on Long Island, they're not
- 19 at a point where they can afford a home or
- 20 afford market rents. But they're also not at
- 21 a point where they are being supported by
- 22 public support. Sort of that missing middle
- that I think is a gap in places like Long
- 24 Island and frankly a lot of the suburban
- 25 markets in the New York area.

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 So our hope is to try to create
- 3 housing that addresses that. If you think
- 4 about the stats and look at them, millennials
- 5 as an example, they can't afford current
- 6 housing on Long Island and there's a lack of
- 7 options. So they leave and look else where.
- 8 Forty-one percent of the young adults are
- 9 living with relatives right now be it with
- their parents or other relatives. Seventy-one
- 11 percent of young adults say they are thinking
- 12 about leaving Long Island because they can't
- 13 find affordable housing. We have to solve
- 14 that problem.
- Same thing with empty nesters.
- 16 Empty nesters sell their home, they have a
- home, they're lonely, they're by themselves,
- 18 it's a financial burden. They want a
- different quality of life. We have to solve
- 20 that problem. And our hope is to actually try
- 21 to pose different projects here, different
- 22 types of products that actually do solve that
- 23 problem.
- Two areas that we're focused on.
- One is we call millenial housing. Millenial

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 housing, if you think about it, is an
- 3 apartment that has multiple bedrooms that are
- 4 rented to multiple people. It's where you can
- 5 bring roommates together that are committed
- 6 but in a friction-free way.
- 7 Today, as an example, my kids when
- 8 they rent an apartment and they rent a one
- 9 bedroom that they all can afford together they
- 10 put fake walls up and break laws and have one
- 11 bedroom and it's very uncomfortable. This is
- 12 actually making something that is done
- 13 efficiently and effectively.
- 14 So you basically build a suite,
- multiple bedrooms, multiple roommates. Maybe
- there's four roommates per suite. You have a
- pod to get into your room. A fob to get into
- 18 your room so it locks. The door locks. A
- 19 bathroom that you share by yourself. You have
- 20 a common area that you share with your
- 21 roommate. They come furnished. We clean them
- 22 once a week. In the kitchen everyone gets
- 23 their own cabinet with a different lock to
- it. You don't have to worry about your
- 25 roommate stealing your food.

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2	When you go do the math the cost of
3	that is 30 percent less than if someone was
4	renting a studio apartment. So they're
5	getting a higher quality of life, a higher
6	quality of apartment, a fully engaged
7	amenitized product for 30 percent less than
8	they would have had otherwise. I believe
9	there will be a lot of young professionals, 20
10	to 30, that would find it very compelling to
11	fill a void in their life.
12	The second is next gen housing. As
13	you think about it and you read the stories
14	and time and time again you hear about the
15	kids living in finished basements, finished
16	attics, over the garage or the parents are in
17	Florida and they come back and move in with
18	the kids. As you get to the next generation
19	is there a way to solve that problem? The
20	model that we're focused on is creating a unit
21	that actually has a studio apartment attached
22	to it with a separate entrance.
23	So if you're a parent, you can
24	actually rent an apartment that then when your

child stays with you they can actually be in

25

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 that studio that's attached to that
- 3 apartment. So you're together but separated.
- 4 It's more cost efficient and it's a better
- 5 quality of life that solves that problem. So
- 6 those are two examples that we are working on
- 7 right now relative to the housing side.
- Just moving on. As you see through
- 9 the program, in the purple here what you will
- 10 see is the two hotels right now that we are
- 11 proposing. And again, this is all a vision
- 12 that might shift. But number three, which is
- a garage behind that, we would be wrapping
- 14 that garage with a limited service hotel. And
- to the north you will see another hotel which
- will be maybe more a luxury style hotel so
- that when people come to Long Island they want
- 18 a luxury place to have an event or stay that
- would be the location that they would go.
- We also have a transit hub as you
- see the central transit hub, the black line by
- the hotel. That's an area where the transit
- 23 hub will have the BRT, ride share services or
- 24 micro bus services such as the programs we are
- working on with Ford called Chariot where they

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 have customized commutes for 14 people rather
- 3 than large buses to get to the train
- 4 stations.
- A key for us as we've go through
- 6 this process and frankly as we've gone through
- 7 this process in many different venues has been
- 8 the concept of engaging with the community and
- 9 working collaboratively. In building these
- 10 types of projects, building it is just part of
- 11 it. Really what you want them to do is
- 12 ultimately be an economic generator for the
- community during construction and following
- 14 construction. As we've worked on these
- 15 projects in our other markets in Westchester
- and Connecticut and other places, we have gone
- out of our way to engage early with the
- 18 community so that the local community actually
- 19 starts seeing the benefits from this.
- For example, during construction in
- our projects in Westchester, a year before we
- even began construction we began construction
- job training programs. And we actually align
- ourselves with social service firms to help us
- to work with finding people either at the

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2	schools or at different programs where they
3	are looking for jobs that can help us help
4	them get through this process. We get them
5	OSHA certified. We then hold job fairs for
6	them. Bring all our contractors in and let
7	them go through the process of ultimately
8	deciding who to hire. Because of that, the
9	majority of the people that we have working on
10	our projects are from that market or the
11	surrounding neighborhood of that marketplace.
12	Same thing as we think through the
13	local community. Many times you hear new
14	development happens and the local businesses,
15	the small businesses, get pushed out. What we
16	want to do is get ahead of that and try to
17	embrace that early and work with the small
18	businesses to be able to actually serve the
19	new cliental and the expanded business
20	opportunity that exists. So we've partnered
21	with a group called TAP, which are former
22	consultants that actually work with each of
23	these individual businesses helping them
24	evolve their business model for what's going

25 to be versus what was in that market place.

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- 2 That's something that we would do here.
- Finally, job training as we go
- 4 forward. The retail alone, because it is
- 5 entertainment experiential retail, is
- 6 something that's going to be a real value
- 7 added type service. We would actually have
- 8 the type of customer service training that
- 9 Brett spoke about with Disney Institute
- 10 brought in so that people from the community
- 11 can be prepared to service our retail. We
- estimate that retail alone will be 1500 people
- that will work in that retail. Northwell, as
- 14 I mentioned, as part of their programing,
- plans on doing job training. Trust me, they
- are having a hard time hiring people with the
- 17 skills. So they are going to go out and train
- 18 people from our local community to be ready
- 19 for those types of jobs. So focusing on the
- job training for the site and also it being a
- 21 beacon for job training that can taken
- 22 elsewhere is key.
- 23 And finally, internships for the
- 24 people that are in high school so they can
- 25 actually start working commercially on the

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 site, in our buildings, in the companies and
- 3 have role models and path forwards as we go
- 4 forward. All concepts that we have heard
- 5 about as we have been out talking to
- 6 stakeholders.
- 7 Again, continuing on the commitment
- 8 to community engagement. One of the big
- 9 things for us is we are not in a place where
- we say here's the plan, take it or leave it.
- 11 As you have seen in past, plans that have put
- 12 forward that has been the failure. We're
- 13 saying here's what we're thinking about. Tell
- 14 us what you're thinking about. Let us engage
- with you and be in a situation to take the
- 16 feedback and all have a sense of ownership and
- make sure all voices are heard. Even if we
- 18 can't take all those comments be part of what
- 19 the ultimate plan is. To date we've met with
- over 50 members of the Nassau County
- 21 community. We had meetings this morning. We
- 22 will have meetings tomorrow and we will have
- 23 meetings as we continue through this process
- of getting input from each of the different
- 25 stakeholders.

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I want to say one thing that comes
to the community and I think the Minority
Leader said this, is ensuring the community
benefits program is developed properly. I
think there will be a number of them here.
And for us, the best way you can develop a
community benefits program here is actually
spending the time listening to the
stakeholders and understanding what's needed
and targeting the services and dollars to
that.
So what we are going to be
proposing is that we come back to the
legislature on a regular basis, and frankly
even set up an advisory committee, a CBA
advisory committees, where you can have
members of the legislature and other
stakeholders sit on and share with you the
feedback we are hearing to ultimately craft
the right CBA agreement. This way it's
something we are all proud of at the end of
the day.
I will say to you there clearly

will be an economic benefit from this

25

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 project. If you think about right now the
- 3 Coliseum itself is throwing off about \$4
- 4 million of revenue to the county. I will
- 5 assure you that through the taxes, the sales,
- 6 the agreement that we pay made with the county
- 7 in terms of paying rent payments or sales
- 8 payment, sales taxes, real estate taxes, we
- 9 will be funding multiples of that number to
- 10 Nassau County when we are all said and done.
- 11 So there will be a tremendous amount of
- economic benefits and targeted community
- benefit programs as we go forward and we will
- 14 get that done.
- 15 Same thing with organized labor.
- 16 Again, the Minority Leader brought that up,
- and we've had a number of discussions with
- 18 Long Island building trades and I think they
- 19 have been very constructive and productive
- 20 discussions and we have agreed to work
- 21 together to put together a PLA before we
- 22 actually move forward with this. I look
- 23 forward to working with them all on trying to
- 24 create the right PLA. So thank you for that.
- As we move forward, Brett stated

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- 2 it, this is really today we are here to seek
- 3 approval for a process. We are here to seek
- 4 approval for a process that when you vote in
- 5 December you are voting on giving us the
- 6 ability to continue engaging the stakeholders,
- 7 to be in a situation over the next 24 to 36
- 8 months we can get that CBA done, get that PLA
- 9 done, we can work closely with the Town of
- 10 Hempstead and go through their approval
- 11 process, diligently, expeditiously hopefully,
- and be at a point that we then come forward
- with a package that also includes what the
- 14 economic arrangement is with the county.
- 15 Ultimately that's what you are
- 16 going to vote on. You are going to vote on
- when we figure out all these pieces you're
- 18 going to have the ability to say we like it or
- 19 we don't like it. And you have our commitment
- that we're not just going to come back to you
- in the end we'll be back on a regular basis.
- 22 If you'd like for us to be back once a
- 23 quarter, once every six months, you tell us
- what that is. We have no problem coming back
- 25 and providing regular updates to the

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- legislature so that there is a clear path as
- 3 to where we stand on these different issues
- 4 and there's continued dialogue as we continue
- 5 that process.
- 6 So with that, I appreciate the time
- and look forward to any questions that anyone
- 8 might have.
- 9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 10 Brett. Thank you Scott for your
- 11 presentations. Thank you both. You have been
- 12 available. You met with the legislators. You
- have been forthcoming in terms of the plans
- 14 and especially Brett since the beginning of
- 15 the year.
- My first question is this. We have
- been -- you've provided us with conceptual
- ideas about what might go on to the property.
- 19 As you said, the only thing that's going to be
- 20 before us next month is lease agreement and
- the development plan agreement. So we're not
- 22 approving anything in any way, shape or form
- the actual product of this partnership. I'm
- 24 going to confirm with you, I think we are
- going to insist this be in the lease,

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 ultimately the Nassau County Legislature will
- 3 have the final say of what will come out of
- 4 this process. We will have to approve
- 5 whatever the final plan is in terms of what's
- 6 going on that property.
- 7 MR. RECHLER: That's absolutely
- 8 confirmed. Again, I reiterate that we want to
- 9 be proactive in the dialogue. So we will be
- 10 glad to come back in front of the legislature
- either regularly preplanned or as requested.
- 12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It's a
- good idea that you put forward in terms of
- 14 having an advisory counsel and having
- 15 legislators and other stakeholders involved
- 16 all the way through this process. We will
- 17 follow-up on that.
- Brett, you described the processes
- 19 that you went through to find a partner and
- 20 you indicated that the search -- that RXR
- 21 checked off all the boxes. I can understand
- 22 why. A major player. The location of its
- other properties, with the parking during
- 24 construction. But my question is, when you
- were doing the search did you let the

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 administration know? Because at the same time
- 3 it appears the administration was going out
- 4 with the request for express of interest. So
- 5 I'm a little confused about the process.
- 6 MR. YORMARK: I think it's fair
- 7 to say that the county executive's office had
- 8 to have a backup plan just in case. We live
- 9 in a life that's unpredictable. But I can
- 10 state it again and I will state it very
- 11 clearly. We had every intention to move
- 12 forward and create value around the Coliseum
- 13 not only for us but obviously for the key
- 14 stakeholders here in the community. The
- 15 county had to do what they had to do because
- of the unpredictable nature of what happens
- obviously in business, and they know, like we
- 18 know, how important the development of the Hub
- 19 is. I guess in some respects we went down
- 20 parallel paths. But it was always our intent
- 21 to exercise our rights in our lease.
- 22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: What drove
- this in how we arrived at this development
- 24 plan agreement was not this request for
- 25 express of interest, that was a parallel

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 track?
- MR. YORMARK: Yes.
- 4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: My
- 5 question Brett is, can you develop this
- 6 project, make it financially feasible and
- 7 comply with the town zoning requirements?
- 8 Taking away the cost of redeveloping the
- 9 Coliseum et cetera. Is it reasonably possible
- to do this within the town zoning
- 11 requirements?
- MR. RECHLER: I believe it is
- from the work we've done. And again to
- 14 reiterate the points, by now the Coliseum
- being renovated, by having the funding from
- 16 the state for the parking, and I think having
- a plan in place as to what the zoning would
- 18 permit, enables us to evaluate that and also
- 19 realizing we can put something that's
- 20 proportional consistent with the community but
- 21 at the same time is substantial enough to
- 22 create that sense of downtown and place that
- we are seeking to create.
- 24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You
- 25 mentioned the economic impacts that will

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 benefit the county going forward with
- 3 development of this property. Certainly
- 4 that's something that we look forward to as
- 5 well as some of facts that after all these
- 6 years and decades that this property will be
- 7 developed and see its full use and have a
- 8 destination place for Nassau residents. But
- 9 the development also includes impacts on local
- 10 infrastructure. Roads, sewage, services,
- 11 police, fire. Are you committed to assisting
- or to defraying some of those costs for our
- local municipalities and towns? Obviously the
- 14 county and school district.
- MR. RECHLER: That's a very good
- 16 point. That's why I think this is a good
- 17 process and why I noted that we need to figure
- out the CBA when we have better visibility.
- 19 Because part of what we're going to do in the
- 20 opening of this is work off of the
- 21 environmental impact studies that the Town of
- Hempstead did when they did their and have
- used that as a starting point to further do
- studies as to where there would be impacts
- 25 from this development.

1	Full Leg - 11-27-18
2	That's one of the ingredients.
3	What do we need to do to mitigate some of the
4	impacts from this development in terms of
5	cost? That also will be part of the puzzle to
6	say sit down negotiate with the county what is
7	the price that we're paying for the land. So
8	this all comes together. What is the value,
9	what is the size of the CBA. By having
10	greater visibility ultimately of what we're
11	ultimately going to build and the issues
12	created by what we're building and the costs
13	surrounding that enables us to sit down and
14	have a holistic conversation about all the
15	different elements.
16	LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I agreed
17	with before when you mentioned that the town
18	zoning, putting in place that zoning, I think
19	is very helpful to developers to do the
20	legwork which they did over the course of
21	months to come up with the zoning for the
22	area.
23	The project labor agreement you

project labor agreement for the development of

mentioned. RXR is committed to having a

24

25

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 this property. Does that include both
- 3 commercial and residential?
- 4 MR. RECHLER: We have been
- 5 working with the Long Island Business Trade as
- 6 I mentioned and I think we are both committed
- 7 to roll up our sleeves and get a PLA done that
- 8 makes this a viable project.
- 9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That
- 10 really isn't a definitive answer.
- MR. RECHLER: I will ensure you
- that we are going to work in a very
- collaborative way and I think that people will
- 14 feel good about the PLA when we're done.
- 15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I can tell
- 16 you this, when it comes back to the
- 17 legislature ultimately, when this property is
- 18 ready to be developed, I think there's a
- 19 number of us most of us, if not all of us,
- 20 will insist upon PLAs.
- 21 MR. RECHLER: I'm starting the
- process assuming we're going to have a PLA.
- 23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The other
- economic impact is our workers basically.
- 25 Having local unionized workers on this project

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- 2 has a tremendous impact for our economy.
- 3 They're making money. They're spending
- 4 money. They are the backbone of our
- 5 communities. So we want to support them.
- 6 One more question before I turn it
- 7 over to some of my colleagues. The rapid
- 8 transit component. Some of the communities in
- 9 Nassau County will be a little bit concerned
- 10 about having this travel through their,
- 11 whatever it is that you develop, through the
- 12 neighborhoods. So I would ask again for you
- to work with the communities. I know you have
- 14 already met with the village of Mineola. But
- 15 I think you should also meet with the village
- of Garden City because they are concerned as
- well. I think the concept of a dedicated
- 18 rapid transit, as you mentioned the buses, I
- think that has the ability to be a low impact
- on the community. People might not even see
- it. But we are concerned if these are going
- through residential neighborhoods.
- MR. RECHLER: That's a fair
- 24 point. It's our intention to meet with all of
- 25 the local communities to try at least mitigate

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- 2 it.
- 3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Alternate
- 4 Deputy Presiding Officer Ford.
- 5 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
- 6 much. Thank you very much for your
- 7 presentation. Sorry, I wasn't here last week
- 8 when you came to meet with the legislators. I
- 9 guess for me my one question that I have, and
- 10 I don't know if this was discussed when you
- 11 met with the other legislators is, Mr. Ratner,
- who currently I guess owns or is in operation
- of the Nassau Coliseum, is he involved with
- 14 this at all or just the two of you?
- MR. YORMARK: No. Bruce Ratner
- is no longer really involved. We will be
- putting forth in the amendment to our lease a
- 18 change of control.
- 19 LEGISLATOR FORD: He's agreeable
- 20 to this?
- MR. YORMARK: Yes, he is.
- 22 Candidly, and I do care a lot about Bruce, but
- he's not been part of the operation since day
- one. It's been myself and my staff based on
- 25 the direction of Onexim. So nothing will

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2	change materially other than a piece of paper.
3	LEGISLATOR FORD: Perfect. I
4	guess in this day and age when we see these
5	developments coming one of the biggest issues
6	that a lot of residents seem to have is when
7	developers come and ask for PILOT agreements
8	and any type of tax abatements. My question
9	to you is, are you going to seek any type of
10	tax relief in order to develop this property?
11	MR. RECHLER: I addressed this
12	when I met with all of the members. I want to
13	address it again. What we have found to build
14	affordable multifamily product is that there
15	needs to be some relief from taxes. What's
16	important here is there are no taxes being
17	generated on this site right now. We are
18	going to be paying meaningful taxes. The
19	question is for certain uses to be able to
20	provide the affordability for example for
21	housing, millenial housing, when we say
22	affordable meaning they're not necessarily
23	traditional affordable, but affordable for
24	young professionals and maturing professionals
25	that I discussed, we have found you need some

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- level of tax subsidy to be able to do that.
- 3 We will look at the economics but what we have
- 4 seen in other parts of Long Island is we've
- 5 had to address that.
- 6 LEGISLATOR FORD: So that then as
- 7 I said I wasn't here last week. So in regard
- 8 then when you say the PILOT then would be
- 9 applied to the housing component not to the
- 10 retail or commercial component?
- 11 MR. RECHLER: Again, I think
- that's the premise. But we will look at this
- 13 holistically together and be fully transparent
- 14 but that is the objective.
- 15 LEGISLATOR FORD: We are going to
- 16 look at it because it really will be a big
- 17 consideration in regard to like moving this
- 18 forward. I do want to reiterate what the
- 19 Presiding Officer and Minority Leader had said
- even with the PLA. I know you said you were
- 21 working with the unions in trying to achieve
- 22 some sort of a PLA. But I do want to
- reiterate that it should be in place prior to
- you coming back to us for any type of
- 25 legislative approval.

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2	MR. RECHLER: You have my
3	commitment to that that it will be in place.
4	LEGISLATOR FORD: Both commercial
5	and the housing, especially in consideration
6	that if you're looking for any type of tax
7	abatement which will, as you said, you are
8	going to generate taxes, and I'm familiar with
9	PILOTs, I'm familiar with development and the
10	benefits and what taxes and other type of
11	revenue that you can bring. But it will also
12	be a decrease in taxes that we are collecting
13	for the residents throughout Nassau County.
14	My feeling is that considering any
15	type of PILOT, then in order for any
16	development to be able to achieve any type of
17	abatement, a PLA, and it should be our union
18	workers and the residents here in Nassau
19	County that work on these projects and are
20	guaranteed to make a living here because they
21	are going to have to pay the taxes that are
22	missing because of the PILOT. I do once again
23	want to urge you on that.
24	In regard to the Town of Hempstead,
25	and I like your idea with the housing, I

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- 2 always have a problem with -- I'd like to know
- 3 what you anticipate the rents to be in your
- 4 housing for our young people? Do you have any
- 5 idea?
- 6 MR. RECHLER: I don't have a
- 7 specific number. As I mentioned, when we
- 8 looked at this model in other market places,
- 9 for example, the millenial housing has
- 10 resulted in a cost that's 30 percent less than
- 11 what a traditional studio apartment would be.
- 12 Again, this is the process that we are going
- to go through and we will have the ability to
- 14 ultimately to see what that number comes out
- 15 to be.
- 16 LEGISLATOR FORD: With the Town
- of Hempstead with their zoning laws in regard
- 18 to rental apartments and even homes, do they
- 19 allow multiple people to live in an
- 20 apartment? I don't live in the Town of
- Hempstead. I live in the city of Long Beach.
- 22 I know we have a requirement in the city that
- only two nonrelated people basically can live
- 24 in an apartment. That you can't all of a
- 25 sudden have four people living in an

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 apartment, even if it's three bedrooms, if
- 3 they're not related. Do you know offhand?
- 4 Because you had indicated that the idea of
- 5 these apartments would be that it would be
- 6 everyone would have their own bedroom, share
- 7 the common areas. Almost I guess like a
- 8 dormitory type of thing. I just want to know
- 9 is that permitted by the Town of Hempstead?
- 10 MR. RECHLER: I would have to
- 11 check into that. We have had a meeting with
- 12 the Town of Hempstead and laid out our
- thoughts and they have engaged with us in a
- 14 productive way to start having discussions.
- 15 So we are going to go through this. This is
- 16 all a work in progress. This is what I think
- makes this process a valuable process is we
- 18 are putting out ideas. We are going to get
- 19 feedback from those ideas. We're going to see
- what the economics around those ideas are.
- 21 What the limitations around those ideas are.
- 22 And then we will come back with new ideas.
- 23 These are our current thinking. But to your
- 24 point, if in the Town of Hempstead says this
- is not something we are supportive of then we

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- will have to change our thinking. That's a
- 3 fair point.
- 4 LEGISLATOR FORD: You want to
- 5 move this forward. You don't want this to be
- 6 a last minute glitch.
- 7 MR. RECHLER: But that may not be
- 8 a zoning issue as much as -- one way or
- 9 another the Town of Hempstead is going to have
- 10 to evaluate this project and make a series of
- 11 approvals on it. Where that would fall into
- 12 it I'm not sure. That's a similar situation
- in New York City that you describe.
- 14 LEGISLATOR FORD: You said that
- it's going to be multiphase development. So I
- 16 guess Northwell you are intending they are
- 17 going to be the anchor tenant. From what I
- gather there has been money already allocated
- 19 for Northwell originally a couple of years. I
- think they were granted maybe \$50 million to
- 21 build at the Hub. But they decided not to.
- They took \$30 million to expand whatever they
- 23 had in Manhasset. Basically there's still \$20
- 24 million that Northwell can use at the Hub.
- Based on the newest report today

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- they would be eligible for state funding for
- 3 whatever project they will do, is it possible
- 4 that Northwell can build on the portion of the
- 5 property that you had indicated in your
- 6 diagram, the thought I'm just saying, maybe
- 7 the corner or whatever you want to do, that at
- 8 the same time that you build the housing so
- 9 that when Northwell and Sloan Kettering and
- 10 everybody else is finished in that aspect of
- it that we automatically have the housing?
- MR. RECHLER: That's a good
- 13 statement. I should have mentioned. I
- 14 apologize. The current thinking on a phase
- one per se would be the parking garages, the
- 16 Northwell innovation center. Half of the
- 17 housing that's closest to where the Coliseum
- is and the entertainment retail. So that when
- 19 phase one is done you feel like you have the
- 20 substance of that downtown. Then as that's
- absorbed we can go to a phase two and expand
- 22 out that downtown.
- 23 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
- 24 much for clarifying for that. That really is
- 25 big. Thank you very much for that.

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- 2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
- 3 Schaefer.
- 4 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Thank you.
- 5 Good afternoon. Thank you for your very
- 6 comprehensive presentation. I just have a
- 7 couple of questions. You had mentioned
- 8 earlier you were going to work off the town's
- 9 EIS that they had already completed based on I
- 10 guess on their zoning change. Was their
- 11 environmental impact statement only based on
- 12 the housing that they had there or
- 13 contemplated any future --
- 14 MR. RECHLER: Their zoning was
- meant to be flexible and meant for it to be a
- 16 submission of a plan that then would be put
- forward. So, as I said, they did an
- 18 environmental impact study when they put that
- 19 forward, that flexible plan forward, which
- included 500 units of housing. But the reason
- 21 I said it is a starting point, the good news
- 22 is they have done the baseline work. Anything
- that we're doing that would be different we
- would have to study the additional impacts and
- what mitigants we might need to address those

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 additional impacts.
- 3 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I know you
- 4 are still looking into it, but along the lines
- of what Legislator Ford was saying. The
- 6 zoning I guess in the town I think is capped
- 7 at 500 units. But the millenial or
- 8 dormitory-type housing seems like it brings in
- 9 more people. That's just something that's in
- 10 the back of my mind as well. Does that bring
- in more people than would normally be
- 12 anticipated in a one or two bedroom?
- MR. RECHLER: Again, it's also
- 14 the type of people. If you listen to both
- 15 housing products for example they're very
- likely to have school age children. Very
- 17 likely to have a house that is of a couple
- 18 that are living together. A married couple.
- 19 In the millenial housing very unlikely that
- any of those bedrooms are ever rented to a
- 21 couple because they want privacy. Usually
- there's three or four people in there and
- there's a couple it's two. So it's maybe one
- or two more people as an example. But I think
- this is exactly the type of stuff that we are

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 going to study and have the dialogue with the
- 3 town and other stakeholders.
- 4 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Is your
- 5 goal to seek a type of housing that minimizes
- 6 impact on the school district or just kind of
- 7 open to it?
- MR. RECHLER: That is our goal.
- 9 I met with the Uniondale School District. I
- 10 met with Dr. Lloyd and the school board and we
- assured him that A, that's our objective is to
- do that because we think what we are targeting
- are not people that necessarily would have
- 14 school children.
- But B, if there were we would
- 16 provide an offset for those costs. And one of
- the things we've done in other projects we
- 18 have a look back. So if the study that we put
- 19 forward and they put forward are different, it
- turns out more kids end up going to the school
- 21 from the community than we anticipated then we
- 22 make them whole on a real time basis for that.
- 23 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I brought
- this up last time, last week, but I was just
- 25 curious when you started speaking about the

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- 2 micro busing I think it was called. Do you
- 3 have any sense of any cost differential
- 4 between a plan like that as opposed to one set
- 5 bus route that's going from one place to
- 6 another or two buses? Doing like you said a
- 7 van or some sort of transportation that can
- 8 carry maybe 14 people. Is there a vast
- 9 difference or it's hard to say at this point?
- MR. RECHLER: What we have seen
- in the markets we've done it has not been that
- vast a difference. The question is how much
- of that shifts over time and dramatically in
- 14 suburban market to date. But when you weigh
- in the convenience the customization to be
- able to get picked up without many stops to
- the train station or paying for parking and
- 18 having to mitigate the parking at the train
- 19 station that's another factor we think will
- work effectively for people.
- 21 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I'm glad
- that you said you were going to be seeking to
- 23 meet with the. My district surrounds to an
- extent.
- My last question, you had mentioned

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- 2 something about advisory counsel. Is that
- 3 something you have already in place? Is that
- 4 relative to this project specifically?
- 5 MR. RECHLER: So, this project
- 6 based on some of the establishing an advisory
- 7 committee that we can then as we go through it
- 8 talk community benefits agreement and other
- 9 agreements that we can get the input. That's
- what I was putting forward as a suggestion.
- 11 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: When are
- 12 you looking to put that together?
- MR. RECHLER: Assuming that you
- 14 as a body vote to move forward in December we
- 15 can incorporate codify that as an arrangement
- 16 as well.
- 17 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Thank you
- 18 all.
- 19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
- 20 Rhoads.
- 21 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Good
- 22 afternoon. Thank you so much for being here.
- 23 A very informative presentation. Obviously
- what we are doing with the Hub has been a
- topic of conversation for the last 25 years.

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- 2 Certainly long before I joined the
- 3 legislature. And it appears as though we are
- 4 finally making substantial progress towards
- 5 that end. Obviously as Newsday reported today
- 6 this is the single largest tract of
- 7 developable land in Nassau County. We want to
- 8 make sure we do this in a deliberative way.
- 9 We want to make sure we do it once. We want
- 10 to make sure we do it right. Please don't
- imply from any of my questions my lack of
- interest or lack of support in the proposal
- but I need to nail down a couple of loose
- 14 ends.
- 15 First question I had is with
- 16 respect to the various entities that are
- involved. That can you for my benefit run
- through exactly who the ultimate partners are
- 19 going to be in this and how we plan to achieve
- 20 that process?
- 21 MR. YORMARK: From our
- 22 perspective Onexim will be obviously party to
- 23 the lease. We are putting forth in our
- amendment request for change of control from
- 25 Mr. Ratner. We effectively have been

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- operating, managing since we opened. So it's
- 3 not a material change. It's more of a paper
- 4 change than anything else. Then obviously
- 5 RXR.
- 6 MR. RECHLER: From our side RXR
- 7 would be the development partner and work in
- 8 conjunction with BSE as our partner. And
- 9 again, as was mentioned, we have been going
- 10 around the country and meeting with other
- 11 owners of large entertainment districts that
- 12 have an arena. There's a tremendous amount of
- 13 synergy in the programing and activation of
- 14 the site with the activities that are taking
- 15 place at the Coliseum and what's going to
- 16 happen around the Coliseum in the
- entertainment, retail and in the open space.
- 18 So we would work hand and hand as partners in
- 19 that process.
- 20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: When do we
- 21 anticipate the sign off from Forest City
- 22 Ratner from taking place, do we know?
- MR. YORMARK: We are prepared to
- 24 move forward once the amendment is approved
- 25 that we are putting forth on the change of

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 control.
- 3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: His
- 4 relinquishment of control does it have any
- 5 timetable?
- 6 MR. YORMARK: We are ready to
- 7 move forward. He has approved that from our
- 8 end. Now we are putting it forth for your
- 9 approval.
- 10 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Can you walk
- 11 me through what you anticipate the plan being
- 12 moving forward? In other words, now we've
- crossed this hurdle. We have, hopefully after
- 14 our legislative meeting in December, we have
- 15 at least an approval from the legislature as
- 16 far as an overall concept. How do we move
- from concept to shovels in the ground?
- MR. RECHLER: A couple of things
- 19 we would do. The first and most important,
- which we have already begun but formally
- 21 begin, engaging with the Town of Hempstead and
- developing a plan with them that is responsive
- to their needs based on what we are seeking to
- develop. But at the same time work with them
- 25 hopefully to be able to expedite that quickly.

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- 2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: If I could
- 3 chime in with one question because I may
- 4 forget it by the time we get through it. With
- 5 respect to the Town of Hempstead, do we know
- 6 whatever is planned on being placed on the
- 7 Coliseum property at this point meets the
- 8 zoning restrictions of the Town of Hempstead
- 9 already or is this a situation where you
- 10 anticipate having to go back to the board of
- 11 zoning appeals?
- MR. RECHLER: We do not
- anticipate needing to get any zoning changes.
- 14 We do need to get approvals from the Town of
- 15 Hempstead. And if you look at the zoning that
- 16 they put forward, which I said I commend them
- 17 for taking this step and putting this out
- 18 there and encourage other municipalities, I
- 19 think it's a good way encourage the right type
- of development in their markets, they left it
- 21 flexible. So now we have a starting point and
- framework as to what their expectations are.
- 23 But there are parts that ultimately though you
- will put a plan forward, a master plan,
- 25 holistically and then they will seek to

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- 2 approve that. But it's not a zoning change.
- 3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I appreciate
- 4 you answering that question. I'm sorry to
- 5 interrupt your chain of thought.
- 6 MR. RECHLER: While we are doing
- 7 that, simultaneously there will be a filing
- 8 with the state which has the \$85 million of
- 9 funding for the garage and any funding for
- 10 Northwell, the innovation center, that would
- 11 be committed to make sure that will be
- 12 released as part of this development.
- 13 At the same time, we will be
- 14 meeting with stakeholders, continuing to meet
- 15 with stakeholders, which will inform the
- evolution of our master plan and the uses on
- our master plan and what that might look
- 18 like. And obviously that includes the
- 19 legislature and your feedback. And that will
- 20 also form the framework of what a CBA and
- labor agreement would ultimately be. We will
- 22 do all that simultaneously.
- That's why I made the suggestion
- and recommendation that we would be open to
- 25 come back regularly to report because it is a

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 process. As you said, it's very high profile,
- 3 an important piece of property, an important
- 4 economic generator for the future of Nassau
- 5 County. We will be willing to come back on a
- 6 regular basis and provide updates as to the
- 7 status of those discussions on all those
- 8 different areas.
- 9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Obviously
- there's no crystal ball. You can't see into
- 11 the future. What do you anticipate as you sit
- 12 here today the time frame being?
- MR. RECHLER: I would ideally
- 14 hope that within 18 months we can be through
- 15 the process. Which I think is a reasonable
- 16 time frame. I think an outside time frame
- would be 24 months. But I think 18 months
- would be a reasonable time frame for us to be
- able to work with the town since they have
- done so much work already that we are building
- off of. As long as we do our job of
- 22 communicating effectively with all the
- 23 stakeholders then I think be in the spot where
- we actually put a shovel in the ground.
- 25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I do notice

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- 2 in the agreement itself that there is a
- 3 provision for bringing on additional
- 4 partners. Obviously much of the county's
- 5 consideration, legislature's consideration of
- 6 this particular proposal has to do with who we
- 7 are doing business with as alluded to before.
- 8 Both of your companies have tremendous
- 9 reputations. I do note that the lease does
- 10 give you the ability to bring on additional
- 11 partners that will not come back to the
- 12 legislature according to the terms of this
- 13 agreement. What types of partners do you
- 14 anticipate bringing on board? What's your
- 15 process for determining who you do business
- 16 with?
- 17 MR. RECHLER: There could be
- partners for different parts of the project.
- 19 Take life sciences as an example. With
- Northwell coming you find that technology and
- 21 life science companies they tend to want to
- 22 cluster. We may find ourselves with a firm
- that specializes in building out life science
- 24 properties and incubating life science
- companies. So that may be a partner we bring

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- 2 forward to compliment the project.
- There may be something similar like
- 4 that on the hotels. That we might decide
- 5 rather than building the hotel ourselves
- 6 someone with expertise on a particular type of
- 7 hotel and synergies that we might want then
- 8 bring them on as a partner.
- 9 There could be a retail
- 10 entertainment concept that we think would be
- 11 creative to the plan with someone who has
- 12 unique expertise that we might bring on as a
- 13 partner. In that, they could be coming in as
- 14 a partner just specifically for that one piece
- of the project. Or we may say that piece is
- too integrated into what we are trying to do
- so for alignment purposes we may seek to bring
- 18 someone in as a percentage of the overall
- partnership so that we are all aligned. A lot
- of this -- to really make this work you need
- 21 all the pieces to work in sync.
- 22 If the entertainment isn't driving
- people there on a regular basis you need to
- 24 change it. It needs to be successful. You
- 25 can't look at that economically in isolation.

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- If the hotel is not performing, you don't have
- 3 a hotel that's functioning that's not going to
- 4 be good for the overall project. That's when
- 5 you have these big master mix used
- 6 developments they are too integrated to not
- 7 have say over each of those different pieces
- 8 in some way or some alignment that whoever has
- 9 ownership in them cares about the success of
- the overall vision for the project as a whole.
- MR. YORMARK: Just to be clear,
- 12 Scott will be the master developer. Is the
- master developer. I think that's the comfort
- level that hopefully you will be able to
- 15 appreciate.
- 16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I know we
- have a general idea of what we anticipate the
- different uses of the property being. My
- 19 concern is if at some point in time, obviously
- we are considering and agreeing to a
- 21 particular agreement now trying to look
- 22 perspectively into the future about potential
- issues that may arise. If a particular use or
- 24 a particular company with which Scott you
- 25 elect to do business is inconsistent with the

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 needs or wants of the county is there a
- yehicle for us to be able to raise an
- 4 objection?
- 5 MR. RECHLER: As we committed to
- 6 the Presiding Officer, that before we would be
- 7 moving forward on any of us, when we figure
- 8 out what we are fully going to build, what the
- 9 understanding and arrangement with the county
- will be, what the CBA will be, what the labor
- agreement will be, you will have ultimately
- the ability to vote yea or nay on that. That
- 13 will include and we will commit to include
- 14 when we put that forward, if we are bringing
- any partners in that we've identified at that
- time to include that as well for you to be
- able to have that transparency in making that
- 18 decision.
- 19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I quess my
- 20 concern is looking into the future, let's
- 21 assume everything is approved, everything is
- 22 built, at some point in time a particular use
- for the property just isn't working and you
- decide to change gears. At any point in time
- do you have to come back?

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- MR. RECHLER: I think on a use we
- 3 probably would have to come back. On a use I
- 4 that would be the case. A partner may be
- 5 different, right, because we may decide to
- 6 bring in a partner for the hotels three years
- 7 into because we think we're not doing as good
- 8 a job of managing it as someone else could
- 9 do. I think that's where it gets
- 10 complicated. If we are going to change the
- use my guess is anything that's not approved
- 12 by the town we would have to come back to the
- town and probably the county as well.
- 14 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I meant, for
- 15 example, a hotel on a particular piece of
- 16 property 20 years in the hotel concept simply
- isn't working. Too much competition in the
- 18 market. You can't fill your space and you
- decide you're going to scrap the idea of
- 20 having a hotel on the property entirely and
- 21 put in a water park or put in a night club or
- 22 whatever it is you want to do. Is there an
- 23 opportunity to come back?
- MR. RECHLER: We are ultimately
- 25 going to get something approved by the town.

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- 2 As long as we are in compliance of what we get
- approved with the town, we're going to need
- 4 flexibility to operate within those
- 5 parameters. To the extent we start doing
- 6 things that are inconsistent with that I think
- 7 it would be legitimate we come back here as
- 8 well.
- 9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: It would as
- 10 long as the town signs off on it we should be
- okay. If the town doesn't then you have an
- issue to come back to the legislature on use.
- 13 I appreciate that.
- I know again there's only a general
- 15 concept and one of the concerns has been
- raised, and I believe Legislator Ford alluded
- to it, with respect to the rapid transit
- 18 plan. The rapid bus plan. One of the
- concerns obviously is that we have absolutely
- 20 no idea, I don't know even know if you know at
- this point, what that rapid transit plan
- 22 entails, where those bus routes would run,
- through what communities. Do you have any
- 24 idea at present?
- MR. RECHLER: In the studies that

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- were done in the past around the Hub there
- 3 have been some routes that have been
- 4 developed. We've looked at some of them and
- 5 they are out there publicly that you can see
- 6 in terms of different ways they can run. We
- 7 will be coming back and when we do come back
- 8 we will have identified where any of the rapid
- 9 transit routes will be so you have the benefit
- of seeing that before you approve it.
- 11 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: When you come
- 12 back to the legislature in 18 months we will
- 13 have that?
- MR. RECHLER: Absolutely. As the
- 15 Presiding Officer said, we've already started
- 16 to speak to stakeholders and we will continue
- to speak to stakeholders and municipalities
- and get as much of that feedback as possible.
- 19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.
- 20 Presiding Officer I would yield the balance.
- 21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
- 22 Walker.
- 23 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I just have
- 24 two questions and I apologize too, I was not
- 25 here last week. But I know you said the

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 Coliseum has been approximately 180 million on
- 3 that project, correct?
- 4 MR. YORMARK: That is correct.
- 5 LEGISLATOR WALKER: What is the
- 6 expected cost of this development?
- 7 MR. RECHLER: Again, rough
- 8 numbers, \$1.5 billion.
- 9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: My other
- 10 question was, how many construction jobs do we
- 11 anticipate?
- MR. RECHLER: A lot.
- 13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: We like a
- 14 lot.
- MR. RECHLER: I don't have the
- 16 number in front of me but it's going to be a
- 17 lot. And it's going to be a lot of years.
- 18 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Which I know
- that makes labor and all of us very happy
- 20 too. Thank you.
- MR. RECHLER: Makes me happy too.
- 22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
- 23 Gaylor.
- 24 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you
- 25 Mr. Presiding Officer. I just have a few

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 questions following up on Legislator Rhoads'
- 3 questions concerning the rapid transit. Has
- 4 there been any consideration for a light rail
- 5 from Garden City into the Coliseum area as
- 6 there was an existing rail line and that
- 7 already exists?
- 8 MR. RECHLER: I mentioned earlier
- 9 our focus on micro transit and micro bus
- 10 routes. As you study the evolution of public
- 11 transit it's moving more in that direction.
- 12 More customizable micro routes versus rail and
- others both as affordability and an
- 14 experiential for the consumer. At the end of
- 15 the day a better product. Particularly for
- 16 something like this where we have multiple
- 17 train stations that could be viable. Whether
- 18 that's thinking about Hempstead, Westbury or
- 19 Mineola. So you can have those bus routes go
- 20 to each of those.
- 21 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I understand
- the concept. Which kind of leaves me to ask a
- 23 couple of more questions. How do you get
- people from Freeport to the Hub? How do you
- get people from anywhere on the South Shore to

1	Full Leg - 11-27-18
2	the Hub? There's no direct lines to Mineola
3	or Garden City or Carle Place or these train
4	stations. So you expect the people on the
5	South Shore to transit into Jamaica and then
6	back to the Hub or do you propose these micro
7	lines will be running all over the county?
8	MR. RECHLER: I can envision
9	there being a situation where there are micro
10	transit lines not necessarily run by us. But
11	I know talking to public transit people that
12	is becoming something more customary. And if
13	there are destinations that there are frequent
14	visitors coming to the Hub we would do that.
15	The other thing which I want to
16	point out which I think is key is because of
17	the amount of parking that we are building
18	on-site to accommodate events at the Coliseum
19	when there aren't events at the Coliseum there
20	will be a tremendous amount of excess

25 they park they get to spend the entire day at

parking. So if people drive they're not going

to be in the situation where they're not going

to find a place to park. They will be able to

park. Then it's being designed so that once

21

22

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24

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- the Hub enjoying different activities, going
- 3 to movies, having a nice meal, spending time
- 4 outside with their family. Then at the end of
- 5 the day getting back in their car. That's
- 6 part of what the concept is to making this
- 7 walkable downtown.
- 8 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: This excess
- 9 parking that you have are you going to charge
- 10 for it? Because there's been a backlash of
- 11 complaint of the high cost to park right now
- 12 at the Coliseum. So how is this all factored
- in with the cost of parking in the future at
- 14 the Hub?
- MR. RECHLER: We haven't yet
- 16 evaluated that.
- 17 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I talked to a
- 18 few millenials, not Josh, he's not here, but a
- 19 few others in my district. Most millenials
- are looking to get out of the dorm style
- 21 setting by the time they become a junior,
- definitely by a senior in college. What you
- are proposing now is to put them back into a
- 24 similar type of environment that they really
- don't want to be in. What is the basis or the

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 impetus for you coming up with this idea of
- 3 millenial housing? Where is it right now?
- 4 MR. RECHLER: It's been
- 5 successful throughout the United States. In
- 6 areas like from Pittsburgh to Long Island City
- 7 to California. And again, we are not putting,
- 8 it's an alternative. If people don't want to
- 9 live there they don't have to live there. I
- will tell you from someone in the business
- that builds multifamily, we see a lot of our
- one bedroom apartments converted illegally to
- four bedroom apartments by people putting up
- 14 temporary walls, sharing one bathroom, not
- being equipped for that. The theory here is
- if people are doing this today in a way that's
- 17 not the most comfortable and the most
- 18 effective way can we create a product that
- addresses it from the beginning and gives them
- that and provides them at cost differential of
- 21 30 percent than renting a studio. If they
- don't want to do it then obviously they don't
- have to but that's the product that we think
- would make sense.
- 25 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: If you make

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 your application to the Town of Hempstead for,
- in effect, single resident kind of occupancies
- 4 is what you're asking for, which is for the
- 5 most part prohibited throughout most of Nassau
- 6 County and almost every village in the county,
- 7 in the town, and you're granted that approval
- 8 and you later determine it's not a profitable
- 9 housing proposal, I would imagine you'd have
- 10 to go back and ask for Town of Hempstead
- 11 approval to rezone it again.
- MR. RECHLER: As I said, the
- 13 question that Legislator Ford made is
- 14 correct. We need to work with the Town of
- 15 Hempstead and we will do that. If this is not
- 16 a product that the Town of Hempstead is
- 17 comfortable with or stakeholders don't think
- we will work go back to the drawing board and
- 19 come up with a product that does work.
- 20 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: And then you
- will come back to the legislature to seek
- 22 further approval?
- MR. RECHLER: Yes.
- 24 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I've had some
- 25 experience since I been a legislator with

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 PILOTs and the detrimental impact that they
- 3 have to the community. I'm referring
- 4 specifically to the Green Acres' PILOT and the
- 5 way that was handled at all levels of
- 6 government let's just say. PILOTs really are
- 7 the product of a negotiation between you and
- 8 an IDA that operates under state law that has
- 9 very little or that we have very little, in
- 10 fact we have no control or influence over.
- 11 PILOT payments would have a huge impact for
- 12 maybe one school district here, Uniondale I
- would think and with the rest of the county
- 14 and the rest of the residents would have to
- 15 pick up the slack.
- In your testimony I believe you
- said you needed to get a PILOT for the housing
- 18 component in particular. What specifically is
- driving you to seek a PILOT or seek an IDA
- 20 approval and get a PILOT as it relates to
- 21 solely the housing component?
- MR. RECHLER: First let me
- 23 clarify a couple of things. You mentioned
- 24 Green Acres. Legislator Ford made the point
- 25 she had seen this too. Right now we have a

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 site that for more than 40 years hasn't thrown
- 3 off any taxes. Whatever we build we will
- 4 throw off a tremendous amount of taxes off of
- 5 this site. So now what we're speaking about
- 6 is what's the level of those taxes? Is it \$10
- 7 million a year, \$15 million a year, is it \$20
- 8 million a year? I don't know the number. But
- 9 what our experience has been to date, and
- 10 again it t may be different for this project
- depending on all the factors we're talking
- 12 about, the community benefits agreement, what
- our deal with the county is et cetera, that
- when you build multiple family that you try to
- bring it at an affordable price point it's
- 16 challenging for them to pay full boat of real
- 17 estate taxes. That being said, if we can do
- 18 it we will do it. But the end result product
- is that the county is going to get an
- 20 abundance, and the school district, of
- 21 additional tax revenue than otherwise would
- 22 get.
- 23 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: But if there
- is no tax revenue is what I'm saying by virtue
- of whatever you negotiate with the IDA it's a

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 payment in lieu of taxes.
- MR. RECHLER: You can still
- 4 distribute the payment as if to the same
- 5 stakeholders that would have gotten the
- 6 taxes. Let's take Uniondale School District.
- 7 Uniondale School District right now is not
- 8 getting tax revenue from the 60 acres of
- 9 parking lot in Nassau County. I assure you
- that when we are done they will get
- 11 substantial tax revenue from the 60 acres
- 12 parking lot of the Coliseum. Whether there is
- a PILOT for a portion of it they will still
- 14 get a segmentation as to what that is
- depending on what percentage of the PILOT. If
- they were going to get 100 percent of today of
- nothing they're getting nothing. If they're
- 18 getting 100 percent of a million dollars
- they're getting a million dollars. If they're
- 20 getting 70 percent of a million dollars
- 21 they're getting \$700,000. They are always
- 22 better.
- 23 Again, this is all about finding
- 24 ways to make this economical and create a
- 25 product that people can afford to live in.

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- The easy thing for me to do is to say no PILOT
- 3 and worry about it later. I'm being
- 4 transparent and telling you what my experience
- 5 has been and we'll share it. These are all
- 6 trade-offs that we are all going to have to
- 7 make all relative to all different pieces of
- 8 the pie.
- 9 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I'm thinking
- that PILOTs don't really benefit the county.
- 11 Benefits the school district.
- MR. RECHLER: Benefits the
- 13 county.
- 14 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Smaller
- 15 portion.
- MR. RECHLER: Whatever you would
- have gotten in taxes if there is a discount
- 18 that was created from the PILOT then you will
- 19 get the discounted proportion. Whatever that
- 20 portion is. In fairness again, our hope is to
- 21 be transparent and share this with you as we
- 22 go through the process and we will share the
- details rather than talking in theory.
- 24 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: My colleague
- 25 is whispering in my ear. He mentions that

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 you've come here seeking, possibly going to
- 3 seek a PILOT or you intend to, whereas there
- 4 may be other developers that don't want to
- 5 seek a PILOT, would be willing to do the same
- 6 project or one very similar. But that's
- 7 really not currently before us.
- 8 MR. RECHLER: Again, we are going
- 9 to look at all of this. There's a lot of
- 10 pieces on the table. We have a deal with
- 11 Nassau County. We have a community benefits
- 12 agreement. We have labor agreements. We have
- what are we building on this site. What are
- 14 the implications in terms of the impact that
- 15 need to be addressed for what we are building
- on the site in terms of addressing those
- impacts. At the end of the day what are the
- 18 real estate tax revenues that are being
- 19 generating and could there be for certain
- 20 parts of this subsidies to make it
- 21 successful.
- 22 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: At the same
- time you come before us asking or indicating
- you're going to be seeking tax relief and the
- 25 rest of the county residents --

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- MR. RECHLER: Just to clarify. I
- 3 didn't say I'm going to.
- 4 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Seriously
- 5 considering.
- 6 MR. RECHLER: I'm sharing with
- you my experience that is out there. But
- 8 remember, whatever this is we are creating
- 9 more taxes. Right now this is going to be a
- 10 big net benefit for Nassau County, for the
- school and town by the taxes that we are going
- 12 to be creating here. I don't want to get lost
- in this. As I said I will come back to the
- 14 county and to the extent that the county, when
- we have all of the pieces together, is
- uncomfortable with the part of it that's when
- we will have that dialogue.
- 18 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I just want
- 19 you to be cognizant of the fact that the
- 20 residents of Nassau County, many of them, 25
- 21 percent and more, have received tax impact
- 22 notices indicating their taxes are going up at
- 23 a time where you're coming before us
- indicating or suggesting you may be seeking
- 25 tax relief. That seems to be a little bit of

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 an unfair balance.
- MR. RECHLER: The other balance
- 4 of this is we've got 40 percent of the people
- 5 that are 25 years or older living in someone's
- 6 basement because they can't afford to live in
- 7 Long Island. And we have 70 percent of young
- 8 people saying they are going to move off of
- 9 Long Island because they can't afford to live
- on Long Island. You are the elected
- 11 officials. You will have the ability to make
- these decisions. Everything has a trade-off.
- 13 I'm just being realistic.
- 14 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I appreciate
- 15 your optimism. Thank you very much.
- 16 LEGISLATOR FORD: Legislator
- 17 McKevitt.
- 18 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: I'm just
- 19 curious here. I know I'm going to ask a very
- 20 broad and vaque question but do you have an
- 21 idea when this is all done as to how many
- 22 employees you're going to have working at the
- 23 site at one time? I understand there will be
- times where there will be events at the
- 25 Coliseum, there won't be. But when this is

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- all come and down, whether it's through
- 3 Northwell or through the retail or through the
- 4 office, is there any range or do you know if
- 5 there is a time you will be able to give us a
- for family from a range as to how many people will be working at
- 7 that site?
- 8 Good question. We obviously know
- 9 with the Coliseum. As I mentioned, from our
- 10 experience, from having conversations with
- others with experience on the entertainment
- retail destination that we are contemplating,
- that will be 1500 people. Obviously with the
- 14 innovation zone and office space another
- 15 600,000 square feet of space that would be
- 16 filled. The hotel. The people working at the
- 17 multi family. A big number. We will come
- 18 back to you as we frame that out and have some
- 19 specific details of that.
- 20 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: You will
- estimate once you deal with the Northwell part
- of the component as to whether how much
- 23 additional square footage of general office
- 24 space will be available as well. Again, I
- don't expect you to have the answer today but

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 sometime in a few months be able to have some
- 3 more specifics as to what those numbers will
- 4 be.
- 5 MR. RECHLER: Correct.
- 6 LEGISLATOR FORD: Legislator
- 7 Ferretti.
- 8 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you
- 9 Legislator Ford. And thank you gentlemen for
- 10 your presentation.
- Going back to the millenial units,
- the millenial housing that you're proposing.
- We're talking about a unit that would have
- 14 multiple bedrooms, so multiple millenials
- 15 let's say that are not related and share a
- 16 kitchen, bathroom et cetera. I guess this is
- a zoning question for the Town of Hempstead.
- 18 What constitutes a unit? If you have three or
- 19 four different millenial families for a better
- use of word living with one common kitchen is
- 21 that one unit or would that constitute three
- 22 or four units?
- MR. RECHLER: Where we've looked
- 24 at doing this before in Long Island City and
- 25 Brooklyn and other areas it's considered one

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 unit. I think it was a good point that
- 3 Legislator Ford made that we have to sit down
- 4 with the town and we will go through that
- 5 process with them. Obviously if each of those
- 6 bedrooms are considered a unit the economics
- 7 don't work to make it affordable. So then we
- 8 would shift gears and not build that type of
- 9 housing.
- 10 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: This type
- of housing we're calling it millenial
- 12 housing. But how do we ensure or how will you
- ensure that it's actually millenials that are
- 14 occupying these units? Would there be some
- sort of age restriction? If so, what happens
- when that millenial reaches a certain age? Do
- 17 you kick them out?
- MR. RECHLER: It's a good
- 19 question. There are different ways to
- 20 approach that. There haven't been traditional
- 21 age limits but there's been other qualifiers.
- We will work with the Town of Hempstead and we
- will share that with you as we come forward.
- 24 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: It's great
- 25 that we are calling it millenial housing but

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 I'm not really sure from a legal standpoint.
- MR. RECHLER: We have to protect
- 4 that for sure.
- 5 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: My last
- 6 question, I don't see any plan on the sketches
- and the site plan, what is, if any, plan for
- 8 environmental, solar panels and green energy
- 9 initiatives in this plan? Is there a plan in
- 10 place? Will there be solar?
- MR. RECHLER: We pride ourselves,
- 12 BSE prides itself on energy conservation. Our
- objective, even though we haven't work out the
- 14 plan yet, to make this a truly 21st Century
- development with the type of energy
- 16 conservation materials and products that are
- available. And we're doing this through all
- 18 of our buildings that we own today. Using
- machine learning and other tools to minimize
- 20 energy usage.
- 21 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: It's fair
- to say when details come out there will be a
- 23 plan for green energy initiatives?
- MR. RECHLER: Yes.
- 25 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: My last

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- question, if you were to seek IDA assistance
- 3 would you commit to seeking that from the
- 4 county IDA or would you also be looking at the
- 5 Town of Hempstead IDA as a possibility?
- 6 MR. RECHLER: I haven't given
- 7 that thought. We can have that conversation
- 8 as this progresses.
- 9 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you.
- 10 LEGISLATOR FORD: I just want to
- 11 make one quick comment. It's unfortunate for
- 12 you that PILOTS have become a toxic topic in
- many communities. We are preparing you.
- MR. RECHLER: I appreciate that.
- 15 I have gotten some of that hint beforehand.
- 16 LEGISLATOR FORD: I appreciate
- your honesty and your transparency.
- 18 Legislator Abrahams.
- 19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you
- 20 Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer Ford. How
- 21 are you guys?
- MR. RECHLER: We are going to
- 23 give you a subsidy in the CBA for air
- 24 conditioning in here.
- 25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I want to

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- thank you again for taking the opportunity for
- 3 being a part of this hearing today. I just
- 4 have some questions. I think my colleagues
- 5 covered a lot of the site development that's
- 6 going to be occurring at the Nassau Hub.
- 7 Obviously I'm not going to spend too much time
- 8 talking a little bit about the site because I
- 9 think you will have an opportunity to reach
- 10 out to stakeholders and then come back to the
- 11 county on what it's going to look like. I
- think it's going to be difficult for you to
- answer how many jobs or things of that nature
- 14 that are going to be there.
- I do embrace the fact that you are
- willing to come back to the legislature, and
- if the county executive and the Presiding
- 18 Officer would indulge us, I would love to
- bring you back quarterly to give us update on
- 20 the process as well. Monthly reports,
- 21 anything of that nature so we can have a
- 22 greater context of what actually what is
- occurring in real time and not waiting for it
- until the development agreement is proposed.
- You also mentioned a couple of

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- things in regards to the community advisory
- 3 committee as it pertains to the community
- 4 benefits agreement. I encourage that. I
- 5 think I would love to be able to work with my
- 6 colleagues here on both sides of the aisle to
- 7 ensure that the advisory committee is
- 8 comprehensive and one that represents all of
- 9 the communities as well as the surrounding
- 10 communities.
- I would also ask you to commit to
- 12 us today to schedule community meetings
- throughout the Uniondale, East Meadow,
- 14 Westbury, Mineola, Garden City, Hempstead
- 15 areas as well. Not the meetings that you are
- 16 meeting with community stakeholders. I'm
- talking about so regular folks, many of them
- here today, have an opportunity to participate
- that couldn't participate here at 2 o'clock
- 20 today.
- 21 MR. RECHLER: That's a good
- 22 suggestion and we will do that.
- 23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I just want
- 24 to talk a little bit about the PLA and the CBA
- 25 if you don't mind. I will start with the

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 PLA. I know you have been developing projects
- 3 for quite some time. Can you give us the
- 4 municipalities where you have been able to
- 5 execute a project labor agreement?
- 6 MR. RECHLER: Not off the top of
- 7 my head but I can get you that.
- 8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just give
- 9 me one.
- 10 MR. RECHLER: Generally we've
- 11 negotiated directly with labor and haven't had
- 12 project labor agreements. I think we've done
- them in Manhattan, in the city before. But
- 14 most of our projects haven't required a PLA.
- 15 We just sit down and had direct conversations
- 16 with labor.
- 17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: In these
- other municipalities like in Manhattan where
- 19 you had these agreements but they weren't
- technically project labor agreements, were
- 21 there agreements that were inclusive of all
- labor or did they carve out certain portions
- of labor? Did they have different rates for
- 24 certain portions of labor? I'm trying to
- 25 figure out what exactly --

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- 2 MR. RECHLER: It's fair to say
- 3 that if you take, for example, our projects
- 4 where we have done all labor. The only time
- 5 where we wouldn't have union labor on the
- 6 project is if they didn't have the capacity to
- 7 get something done. Example, we are
- 8 renovating a pier in Manhattan, Pier 57.
- 9 Google is going in there for 400,000 square
- 10 feet. A public park with two acres. It's a
- 11 public property. So obviously similar to
- 12 this. We would expect to use 100 percent
- union. To remove certain types of paint from
- 14 the steel, steel like made for bridges, there
- is no union labor that could be done. So as
- 16 example, there was a case where we had to
- bring nonunion labor in in that instance to
- 18 address that issue.
- 19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That sounds
- 20 like a very unique type of matter. I would
- 21 beg the question to labor to see if they were
- 22 actually able to do that. But I guess what
- 23 I'm asking is, generally when you look at some
- of the building trades, plumbers,
- electricians, carpenters, we don't envision

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 any of them being carved out of this
- 3 particular --
- 4 MR. RECHLER: You speak to labor
- 5 as well and I've had these candid
- 6 conversations and they've had them with me.
- 7 Labor is going through it's own evolution over
- 8 the last few years of realizing that if we
- 9 were to be able to hire locally, hire
- 10 diversity and have the skill set with each of
- 11 the trades it requires them to start training
- 12 and working more collaboratively with the
- developer and setting different types of
- 14 pricing levels within their scales. Not just
- 15 apprentices but others. There is a
- 16 progressive movement of labor right now that
- are trying to embrace how do we now transition
- to be able to be a value added partner to be
- able to do 100 percent of projects.
- I will say to you again, candid
- transparent, and I would imagine a number of
- 22 my friends in labor that have been out there
- would tell you there's been periods of time
- where there haven't been enough people in
- labor trained in jobs so that we are not

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 hiring locally, not hiring with diversity.
- 3 That I would speak to a member of labor and
- 4 say I need to hire locally. And locally for
- 5 them is bringing people in from Connecticut
- 6 that's not local.
- 7 The objective is to find a balance
- 8 with labor to achieve those factors. The way
- 9 you do it, and I've had conversations with
- 10 Matty from labor, is early in the game develop
- 11 a game plan, work collaboratively, work on
- training programs, figure out what the goals
- are and come up with a robust agreement that
- 14 addresses those issues. I don't mean to be so
- 15 technical but there isn't an easy answer to
- 16 the question because it is a complex
- 17 question. You are seeing this all over the
- 18 New York region right now because there is a
- realization that there needs to be adapting in
- 20 partnership form.
- 21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I hear what
- you're saying and obviously as those
- 23 agreements get hammered out, assuming this
- 24 moves through the legislature next month,
- 25 obviously we look forward to seeing those

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- 2 agreements come to fruition.
- You have committed plenty of times,
- 4 Scott, that you are committed to this project
- 5 and committed to providing a PLA and doing a
- 6 PLA for this project. However, the master
- 7 agreement that's currently before us has no
- 8 reference to a PLA. Would you object to the
- 9 fact that if the legislature, in its confines
- with the county executive, pursued language
- 11 that included a PLA in the master agreement
- that's going to be voted by December 17th?
- MR. RECHLER: Again, I would
- 14 prefer to actually give you the final vote and
- decide whether or not you want to vote on it
- 16 but I'd rather have a PLA negotiated and put
- 17 that forward.
- 18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm not
- 19 talking about a PLA that's agreed to with
- yourselves and the building trades and
- 21 Mr. Aracich. What I'm talking about is
- 22 language that indicates --
- MR. RECHLER: There will be some
- 24 PLA?
- 25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Some PLA.

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- 2 MR. RECHLER: I think we can come
- 3 with some language that there will be some PLA
- 4 in place. I just don't want it to be a form
- 5 PTA.
- 6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I mean,
- 7 look, I will let Matty talk a little bit in
- 8 regards to whether or not he's able to
- 9 accomplish a form PLA in the next three
- 10 weeks. But I want to make it very clear from
- the outset that this legislature, and I think
- 12 the Presiding Officer said it best earlier
- today as well, that this legislature will not
- 14 accept anything less. So to make sure that
- 15 all sides have a level playing field of
- understanding, I think it would be prudent for
- the legislature to adopt an agreement that
- includes language that references a PLA.
- MR. RECHLER: I have no problem
- 20 adopting language that says that it includes a
- 21 PLA just not the language of the PLA.
- 22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I
- 23 understand. I will let you and Mr. Aracich
- 24 hammer that out.
- I just want to dive into and wrap

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- 2 up my questions with regard to the community
- 3 benefits agreement. I know you've worked on
- 4 several different projects all in different
- 5 capacities and different levels. Can you give
- 6 me some insight on some of the community
- 7 benefits agreements that you've accomplished
- 8 in some of your other developments and what
- 9 did they include? What kind of details did
- 10 the include?
- MR. RECHLER: Again, I gave some
- 12 examples. But like in New Rochelle where our
- 13 community benefits agreements talk about the
- 14 percentage of people that are working on the
- 15 projects are hired from the local community
- 16 and neighboring community. Talks about
- 17 providing community centers in New Rochelle
- 18 for example where we had modified an old
- 19 cinema. Made that open to the public.
- 20 Obviously support for the school districts
- 21 we've done historically. Then obviously any
- 22 adjustments and mitigants in terms of public
- works that needs to be done either with roads
- or other safety are part of that PLA at the
- 25 end of it as well.

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- 2 That's really my point. The most
- 3 effective CBAs are the ones that really
- 4 identify specifically what we are trying to
- 5 achieve and having them comprehensively laid
- 6 out with all the stakeholders and that will be
- 7 most impactful to the community.
- 8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I agree.
- 9 By no stretch of the imagination would I ever
- 10 anticipate us having all those ideas with
- 11 regard to a community benefits agreement done
- 12 by the 17th. I think there are ideas and I
- think you've talked about many of them whether
- 14 it's use of green technology, which I believe
- 15 Legislator Ferretti talked about, making sure
- that there is affordable housing component, as
- well as an apprenticeship program that works
- with the unions. This is all I believe tied
- into a CBA which is inclusive. I just asked
- 20 the question because obviously -- the size of
- 21 the New Rochelle project just give me an idea
- of how much the value is.
- MR. RECHLER: It's probably
- double the size of this project. Four million
- 25 square feet.

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- 2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I meant the
- 3 size of the value.
- 4 MR. RECHLER: Off the top of my
- 5 head probably two and a half billion dollar
- 6 project. Again, for New Rochelle as an
- 7 example we are the master developer of
- 8 downtown New Rochelle. Which gives us the
- 9 ability to develop ten million square feet
- 10 plus all the municipal land. There's four
- 11 million square feet of municipal land which we
- 12 are in the process of developing. We're
- finishing up our first phase and beginning our
- 14 second phase.
- In doing that, similar to this
- process, we were chosen as master developer.
- 17 Then we took a 12 month period of time to
- 18 negotiate what that agreement would look like
- and what the community benefits agreements
- would be, what the level of affordable housing
- 21 would be. Frankly even of a PILOT program
- 22 would be. I know it's a dirty word here right
- 23 now. What that PILOT program would be. And
- we brought that back to the city government
- and the city government approved that

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- 2 unanimously. It's actually not too different
- 3 than the model we are following today which is
- 4 that we spent, in that case, a year talking to
- 5 stakeholders, getting all their feedback,
- 6 refining all those plans and then putting it
- 7 back forward with the governing body to
- 8 approve it. And that's really what we are
- 9 seeking to do here.
- 10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just go
- 11 back to the numbers. It was a two and a half
- billion dollar development in New Rochelle?
- MR. RECHLER: I don't know the
- 14 exact number. It's not one development it's
- 15 multiphases. It's larger than what we are
- 16 building here.
- 17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm not
- 18 going to hold you to the number.
- MR. RECHLER: Much larger than we
- 20 are building here.
- 21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That I
- 22 understand. So the community benefits
- 23 agreement, its value in conjunction to whether
- this number is two billion dollars, two and a
- 25 half billion dollars or more, what was the

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- value of the community benefits agreement?
- 3 MR. RECHLER: There's no
- 4 indicative value that I recall. It lays out
- 5 what we need to do relative to affordable
- 6 housing. In terms of jobs.
- 7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That
- 8 development is not done yet? It's ongoing?
- 9 MR. RECHLER: Yes.
- 10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So
- obviously you talked about a community center,
- 12 school district benefits.
- MR. RECHLER: Again,
- 14 interestingly right. Going to my point before
- that everything ties together. If you provide
- 16 for example more community centers in that
- 17 case you get more development rights. It's a
- 18 very dynamic model. Same thing on PILOTS. If
- 19 you do things with a certain level of
- 20 affordability you get more PILOTs. But it
- 21 took a year of going through hearing the
- 22 stakeholders and finding the balance.
- In the way that we would envision
- doing this there's no simple number, and I've
- 25 had this conversation in past with you where

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- 2 you can say this is the number that's going to
- 3 be allocated to a CBA.
- 4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I agree
- 5 with you that there is no simple number but
- 6 there is a formula. So when we look at this
- 7 process and we are looking at a one and a half
- 8 billion dollar project, I wouldn't anticipate
- 9 you can go give me a number today because
- there are many other economic factors. You
- 11 have discuss what you're going to pay to the
- 12 county in terms of rent. You're going to have
- to discuss what you're going to pay to the
- 14 school district if we are going to engage in
- taxes going to school districts and towns and
- other municipalities. You have to engage in
- other variables in regards to a project labor
- 18 agreement. I totally understand why that
- 19 number is difficult for you. I think if we
- are engaged in this process of trying to make
- sure we're doing our due diligence because
- 22 really this process in terms of this master
- 23 agreement is developing the framework.
- The site plan -- obviously you're
- going to have to go to the town and I believe

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- 2 you're going to have to come back to us in
- 3 regards to that. But really getting an idea
- 4 of the framework in terms of how the community
- 5 benefits agreement will work, how the project
- 6 labor agreement will work, whether or not it's
- 7 in the plan, I think to me that's part of the
- 8 framework. So what I would like to have a
- 9 better understanding of is all these things
- sound great, but how do they materialize and
- 11 how do we ensure that there are no gaps in it
- 12 materializing?
- MR. RECHLER: A couple of things
- 14 to answer. After our last meeting I asked my
- team to go out and see if they could find me a
- 16 CBA that had a model like you described in
- 17 Nassau County and Suffolk County and we did
- 18 not find one. If you have one I would be
- 19 curious to see it that had this, quote
- 20 unquote, formula.
- 21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It's funny
- you mention that because the agreements I have
- read the formula seems to be pretty
- 24 straightforward. One of the community
- 25 benefits that I was able to read that I have

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- was tied to Yankee Stadium being built. I
- 3 don't know if you're familiar with that
- 4 community benefits agreement.
- 5 MR. RECHLER: I'm not. I'm
- 6 saying Nassau County. Do you have an example
- 7 in Nassau County of one?
- 8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Nassau
- 9 County hasn't had a development of this size.
- 10 MR. RECHLER: There have been
- 11 developments. Even Suffolk County I haven't
- 12 been able to find. I'm trying to --
- 13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Are you
- 14 telling me there's been a development of this
- 15 size in Nassau County?
- MR. RECHLER: I have been trying
- to find an example. To your point, this is
- 18 process. It's about figuring out the
- 19 process. I'd rather not try to pretend I
- 20 understand it because we are going to be
- 21 constructive. My proposal for a process,
- 22 which you may not agree with, my proposal for
- the process is we set up this advisory board
- that comes together. We meet with
- stakeholders. As we are flushing this out by

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- the time we come forward for a vote you will
- 3 have been part of developing a robust CBA
- 4 program which I think everyone will either be
- 5 comfortable with not.
- 6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm glad to
- 7 hear that's going to take place. That's not
- 8 what I'm talking about. I think what we have
- 9 to talk about now is understanding what the
- 10 framework is, and I think the framework right
- 11 now is a little loose. I don't have any idea
- of the framework.
- MR. RECHLER: I don't have any
- 14 idea of the framework of the project right
- 15 now. I don't know what I'm paying the county.
- 16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You do know
- that the project size is upwards of 1.5
- 18 billion.
- 19 MR. RECHLER: I don't know that.
- 20 I've estimated that.
- 21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You're
- 22 trying to tell me we can estimate that but we
- 23 cannot estimate a community benefits
- 24 agreement?
- MR. RECHLER: Correct.

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- 2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't
- 3 think that's true. That doesn't make much
- 4 sense. Because honestly, I think we should be
- 5 able to have an idea of what that agreement
- 6 will look like in its framework today.
- 7 MR. RECHLER: In all due respect
- 8 I have not been involved in a process at this
- 9 early stage --
- 10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Scott,
- 11 saying with all due respect, but you're
- developing a project in New Rochelle currently
- right now and you want this legislative body
- 14 to believe that in that development, which you
- 15 are undertaking, that you've talked about
- doing hiring in the community, a community
- center, school district benefits, that you
- 18 have no idea what that community benefits
- 19 agreement is going to cost? You really want
- 20 us to believe that? Or at the same time
- 21 believe that --
- MR. RECHLER: I'm glad to lay out
- for you the areas that we are going to talk
- about. We are having a debate of something
- that we both agree on. I'm fundamentally for

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- 2 a community benefits agreement. I'm
- 3 fundamentally for gearing dollars and benefits
- 4 from this project to make the community more
- 5 vibrant and be in a situation where it's an
- 6 economic generator and lift up people for
- 7 opportunities. We've talked about so many
- 8 different things with so many different
- 9 stakeholders. We've talked about being in a
- 10 situation where we create apprenticeships not
- just on the job but in our office buildings,
- 12 which is what some of the school districts
- 13 have said that are out there. What are all
- 14 the menu of all alternatives? Let's develop
- 15 the menu. This is to me framework of an
- 16 economic discussion.
- 17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We develop
- the menu obviously after we approve the master
- 19 agreement. What I'm trying to say is that the
- 20 master agreement is absent of any substantive
- 21 language that talks about how the community
- benefit agreement gets done. There's no
- 23 monitoring mentioned in that agreement.
- 24 There's not even an advisory committee that
- you talked about.

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- 2 MR. RECHLER: I'm agreeing to put
- one in. This is based on our feedback. In
- 4 fairness, to your point, this agreement
- doesn't even talk about what we're paying the
- 6 county. The whole point of the agreement is
- 7 to be a starting point to understand the
- project, what's important to the stakeholders,
- 9 what's the viability and identifying all the
- 10 different agreements that need to be done.
- 11 It's a beginning. What I'm proposing, based
- on your feedback, which I thought was
- legitimate feedback, which was don't come back
- 14 to us the day of a vote and put in front of us
- 15 a community benefits agreement and a project
- labor agreement and say vote yea or nay.
- 17 That's not what you're interested in. I think
- 18 that's legitimate.
- The legitimate thing is as we go
- through this process we will update you,
- 21 create this advisory committee which you can
- 22 have members engaged in, will update the
- legislature on a regular basis and there will
- be a real path forward that we will see. If
- we are falling off of line you will have the

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- 2 conversation with us collectively or if we are
- 3 seeing an issue we will have a conversation.
- 4 But we are not going to wait until the end. I
- 5 think that's legitimate.
- 6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I
- 7 appreciate that. Look, I'm not going to
- 8 belabor anymore. But the bottom line, I think
- 9 it comes off that if you're doing this
- development in New Rochelle and you can't give
- 11 this legislative body any idea how much that
- 12 community benefits agreement will be, and
- that's an ongoing project, I'm concerned that
- 14 this community benefits agreement, which has
- many, many surrounding communities that are
- 16 going to be impacted by this project in a
- positive but also as a traffic potentially in
- 18 a negative way. From that standpoint to not
- 19 give us an idea of what the size of that
- 20 agreement would look like to me seems a bit
- 21 disingenuous.
- MR. RECHLER: I respectfully
- 23 disagree. Even with New Rochelle I can
- 24 probably go out and calculate on the project
- we're building right now what that cost is.

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- 2 But there are variables. That's what makes it
- 3 an impact community benefits agreement. As
- 4 you are going through a multiphase project how
- 5 much affordable housing do you want to have?
- 6 How much of a school supplement support do you
- 7 want to have? How many programs do you want
- 8 to include? I'm open to having the dialogue
- 9 proactively with you.
- 10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you.
- 11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
- 12 Bynoe. Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.
- 13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
- 14 Thank you. Just regarding labor, just to save
- 15 you some time Scott, there are specific parts
- of the lease that have to be addressed
- including 4.1(c), 8.6 and 8.7. We really are
- 18 going to be requested that these explicitly
- 19 state that the union will be used to cover all
- 20 new proposed construction in these areas. So,
- 21 this is project that's going to be scrutinized
- and we have a copy of the lease, it's not that
- 23 hard, but these are the three areas that we
- 24 really want to see that change.
- The wording right now on page six

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- 2 says the tenant in good faith using
- 3 commercially reasonable efforts shall reach
- 4 an agreement with the union. So that's not
- 5 the type of wording that we want. We want,
- 6 especially in these areas, to be very
- 7 specific. Okay?
- 8 MR. RECHLER: I think the
- 9 intention is to establish a new agreements for
- what we are doing not living off that old
- 11 lease. I appreciate that.
- 12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But
- we know what these stand for as far as the new
- 14 construction, so, one way or another these
- components have to be addressed specifically
- before we vote on the lease. Okay?
- I know we mentioned this in private
- but just on the record, are you seeking to
- 19 look for any type of bond that the county
- would be paying for for this development?
- MR. RECHLER: I am not, no.
- 22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Are
- you planning on using the EB5 funding?
- MR. RECHLER: We have not
- 25 considered it at this time.

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- 2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
- 3 have a concern also, which I experienced as a
- 4 counselwoman in Glen Cove, there's a huge
- 5 hotel right here, the Marriott, and I haven't
- 6 seen a specific study but from what I
- 7 understand there is availability on a normal
- 8 basis. I would like to get that before the
- 9 next meeting. The capacity is there for most
- 10 events. When you build these other two hotels
- 11 are you anticipating -- what are the rooms
- 12 going to look like? Are they each going to
- 13 have like a kitchen in them?
- MR. RECHLER: We haven't yet done
- 15 the work to determine what they would be.
- 16 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We
- 17 were concerned about that in Glen Cove because
- we were concerned should you not need a hotel,
- which you might not with the huge Marriott
- 20 right there, that these could later be
- 21 converted into apartments.
- MR. RECHLER: I think that's a
- 23 fair concern that we would address by
- 24 prohibiting that if that was the case and
- 25 there are -- that's something we can be clear

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- 2 on.
- 3 As it relates to the hotel, we are
- 4 going to be meeting with the new owners of the
- 5 Marriott next week.
- 6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
- 7 They're here today.
- 8 MR. RECHLER: I met with them
- 9 earlier as well. Again, if we don't believe
- 10 there's the capacity for a hotel and the
- different types of hotels then we're not going
- to be building a hotel. What you have found
- is just again in other projects is there's
- 14 different types of hotels that meet different
- 15 needs. There's limited service type hotels.
- 16 There's full service type hotels. There's
- 17 luxury brand hotels. And even if you ask
- 18 Marriott, Starwood, they'll put those hotels
- 19 all on the same size. Because in many cases
- 20 people have different price points, different
- 21 expectations as to what they want to achieve.
- We haven't gotten to that yet but we will go
- 23 through that process.
- 24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
- 25 Honestly, I think the Marriott is pretty

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- 2 accommodating to a lot of different levels.
- 3 You can get a low end hotel room or get a
- 4 suite. Just from the outside it appears that
- 5 they will probably match most of your needs.
- 6 And my main concern again is once you have a
- 7 failed hotel I know that sometimes the hope is
- 8 to change them into small apartments and we
- 9 were concerned about that in Glen Cove. And I
- 10 also have that same concern here. There might
- 11 be a way of if we say there's no kitchens in
- 12 the rooms to avoid it. But I think that's
- 13 something again, I appreciate you saying that,
- 14 that's something I'm concerned about.
- MR. RECHLER: That's a fair
- 16 point. We will study the hotel, the market,
- the depth as we go through the process with
- 18 the Town of Hempstead.
- 19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
- 20 know my colleagues are going to mention the
- 21 PILOTs. As Legislator Ford mentioned, we are
- 22 all concerned with them. From what I
- 23 understand, the county attorney stated that
- even though the county owns the property the
- 25 portion of your development that will be

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- 2 retail will not be subject to a PILOT; is that
- 3 correct?
- 4 MR. RECHLER: The county attorney
- 5 said that?
- 6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It
- 7 will be taxable.
- MR. RECHLER: Almost all of our
- 9 project will be taxable. The question is when
- we come back if there's a point that maybe
- 11 needs some subsidy of some tax.
- 12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: As
- far as the apartments go, are they going to be
- 14 listed as almost a prefab type building or is
- 15 it the type of construction that is done
- 16 on-site?
- 17 MR. RECHLER: Most of the time
- these apartments are done on-site. But we can
- 19 look at both. Again, we haven't done the
- 20 homework. This may be a situation where
- there's different construction strategy that
- 22 could be followed.
- 23 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
- 24 Thank you.
- 25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator

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- 2 Bynoe.
- 3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you
- 4 Presiding Officer. Good evening. First, I
- 5 would like to thank you and Brett and your
- 6 teams for meeting with me privately and then
- 7 with the caucus and your presentations have
- 8 been very thorough. I appreciate that. I
- 9 want to talk specifically at this point I'm
- 10 going to start out with PILOTs. And so it's
- 11 been mentioned earlier by my colleagues around
- 12 the need for a PILOT. Or the concern that you
- would express the need for a PILOT. I'm going
- 14 to echo their sentiments and their concern and
- 15 I'm going to say as an operator of public
- 16 housing and low income tax credit in my other
- 17 life I do know it's real. In many cases we
- 18 are going to need that offset. We are trying
- 19 to manage and operate these housing
- developments based on low income rents, rents
- that are sometimes based on income and AMIs
- that are really generating a lower rent.
- In this particular case I do have a
- 24 concern because there will be retail space
- that will be built out on the bottom and the

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 landlord of the rental units will also be the
- 3 landlord of those retail spaces. It's my
- 4 opinion and my suggestion further to you is
- 5 that you build out those spaces so that they
- 6 can offset the lower income that you might
- 7 generate from the rentals. The low income or
- 8 affordable rental units. Typically we don't
- 9 have the benefit of having that offset to
- 10 supplement the rental revenue. In this
- 11 particular case your intention is to build out
- 12 a space that does that.
- I would caution at a time when we
- 14 are going to see our local economy be in flux
- 15 based on the SALT maximum write-offs and this
- 16 county is currently undertaking a reassessment
- which will have some flux in how people are
- 18 currently charged and taxed that that has to
- 19 be considered. I think that PILOTS have not
- 20 been a welcoming conversation in many
- 21 communities and I think it's going to be a
- 22 tougher conversation as you move forward. So
- 23 I caution you about considering a PILOT in
- this particular case.
- The other thing I wanted to talk

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- 2 about is community benefits. I echo also the
- 3 sentiments of the Minority Leader regarding
- 4 the need to kind of see something formalized
- 5 in way of saying that there will be a CBA and
- 6 in good effort and good faith you will work
- 7 toward establishing a CBA. It's been my
- 8 experience since a legislator, I joined
- 9 Legislator Kevan Abrahams on the steps of this
- 10 legislative building with the residents of
- 11 Uniondale lobbying for and advocating for a
- 12 PILOT when we were doing the buildout for the
- 13 Coliseum and the answer was no.
- 14 With that being said, there is some
- 15 level of I guess angst and concern that we
- will get what we need for our residents here
- in Uniondale.
- So, one of the things I would like
- 19 you to consider when you talk about community
- 20 benefits is the emergency services. Currently
- 21 the Uniondale Fire Department is not servicing
- the Roosevelt Field area or the Westbury
- 23 Galleria although they sit in the Uniondale
- 24 Fire District. Westbury is currently serving
- them. So there should be potentially some

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- 2 level of investment based on a community
- 3 benefit agreement to ensure that Uniondale or
- 4 Westbury or whoever it is is going to be able
- 5 to provide the level of services that's needed
- 6 there.
- 7 In addition to that, EMS services I
- 8 understand that currently, which was shocking
- 9 to me, that the Nassau Coliseum, that is
- 10 sitting on land that is owned by Nassau
- 11 County, is outsourcing their ambulance
- 12 service, EMS service. As this comes back into
- the fold within the leadership and under the
- 14 governance of the Town of Hempstead I know
- that the retail and the residential should
- 16 fall under Nassau County's ambulance service.
- 17 And I'd like Nassau Coliseum to consider
- 18 following suit so it's not a disjointed
- 19 service on that one plot of land.
- Also community benefits agreement.
- 21 We've talked a lot about jobs and maybe some
- 22 investment in the infrastructure of the local
- 23 area. I would also like us to see us do some
- work, we most certainly want to make sure the
- 25 PLA language is included as Minority Leader

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- 2 has spoken to, but I also want to make sure
- 3 that our service disabled veterans and our
- 4 minority women business owned enterprises are
- 5 also considered as part of that community
- 6 benefit agreement. It's essential that we do
- 7 so. The county has in many ways attempted to
- 8 ensure that that's a reality and I think this
- 9 is a perfect opportunity to do so.
- MR. RECHLER: I completely agree.
- 11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: One other
- thing, I want to talk a little bit and I've
- talked to you about this before, I definitely
- 14 want to see a tourist attraction. Some level
- of a tourist attraction there. I believe that
- we will be reliant on the local economy if
- we're not driving folks from -- that are
- 18 visiting New York City here. People that are
- 19 visiting the Hamptons here. I believe that we
- would only bolster our economy and the
- 21 reliance would be then not so heavily on our
- 22 local residents.
- The other thing is, as we consider
- that, local tourism, and Scott, I know you
- were in Dubai, I was in Dubai this year, we

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 talked about how they really built out their
- 3 retail space and how they have included
- 4 residential and the like. One of the things I
- 5 do see that they did there they had a little
- 6 hub station, mini bus depot station where the
- 7 local hotels could have little shuttles that
- 8 come there and drop off people. And that
- 9 would not only ensure that our local tourism
- 10 is healthy for those hotels that are not
- on-site, it would also make sure that we have
- some, again, driving some revenue there. I'd
- 13 hope we consider that as well.
- MR. RECHLER: I think that's a
- 15 good point. We actually have planned in our
- transit plan to have a little drop off place
- for that as well. To your point, having the
- third track would also encourage rail from the
- 19 city out here for people as well. Which would
- 20 be obviously helpful.
- 21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: We did talk
- 22 about the third track. I encourage you to
- 23 consider Westbury and that's going to be
- essential, and this was one point I didn't
- 25 make before, is because when we are doing

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 reverse commute, when you're getting people
- 3 coming from east why have them go to Mineola
- 4 when they can just stop there.
- 5 MR. RECHLER: That's one of the
- 6 advantages of having those micro bus routes is
- 7 that you can go to multiple locations.
- 8 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Indeed. I've
- 9 done a lot of scribbling here and I think I
- 10 covered just about everything I wanted to.
- 11 Thank you for continuing to hear us and to
- incorporate some of our suggestions into your
- 13 plan.
- 14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
- 15 Birnbaum, Drucker, Lafazan and Mule in that
- 16 order.
- 17 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I will try
- 18 to make it brief because I think you have been
- 19 very thorough. And I to thank you Brett and
- 20 Scott for your presentation. I want to hear a
- 21 little more about community involvement
- 22 because you mentioned you will engage the
- 23 community. Have you had meetings so far?
- What is the schedule?
- MR. RECHLER: We've had 50

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 meetings with different stakeholders.
- 3 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM:
- 4 Stakeholders meaning members of the
- 5 community?
- 6 MR. RECHLER: Meaning either
- 7 community groups, Uniondale groups, school
- 8 districts. But I think as was suggested by
- 9 the Minority Leader, I believe it was him,
- that we broaden this to actually have also
- 11 public meetings that we can share some of our
- 12 plans. I think that makes a lot of sense
- 13 too. Particularly as we start getting our
- 14 plans better formed. And this is built into
- 15 the way we plan on approaching this is to
- having a continuum of community meetings and
- 17 engagement. Then as we think about the
- 18 community benefits agreement engaging with the
- 19 community as to where we can be most impactful
- and they can be most impactful working with
- 21 us.
- 22 As we've had conversations with the
- 23 school district and they've raised concerns
- and a desires to for example for their
- 25 students to have internships. So we actually

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 sourced out a program, another social service
- 3 program, that's being done in Brooklyn that we
- 4 think can be adaptable to Uniondale where high
- 5 school students can actually start interning
- one day a week and having a program to sort of
- 7 see where the opportunities are in
- 8 environments that otherwise wouldn't be and
- 9 have role models that otherwise wouldn't
- 10 have. So we are trying to engage all those
- 11 different types of feedback.
- 12 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I want to
- echo what my colleague Siela Bynoe said I too
- 14 believe this Hub needs some kind of main
- 15 attraction to draw people to this area. Even
- other Long Islanders. Other people in Nassau
- 17 County who wouldn't normally just go to retail
- shopping because they might just as easily
- easy stay at home to shop.
- MR. YORMARK: I can assure you
- 21 it's not going to be traditional retail. It's
- got to be very destinational and dynamic and
- 23 different and unique and really special to
- 24 Long Island. That's the vision that we share
- with Scott and we're going to be very

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 thoughtful with the process. And obviously we
- 3 welcome your feedback because this is very
- 4 important to us. It really truly makes it a
- 5 dynamic placemaking environment if we get the
- 6 retail right.
- 7 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Great.
- 8 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Gentlemen, I
- 9 echo my colleagues and thank you for your
- 10 presentation. It's very exciting for someone
- 11 who's lived here my whole life the fact that
- we've got to this point today is really
- whetting our appetite quite a bit. We've
- 14 waited a long time to get to this point. We
- 15 are excited but we do have to do our due
- diligence in all respects as you know and you
- 17 guys have to do it as well.
- Scott, I will give you a chance to
- 19 get some water. I will ask Brett a couple of
- 20 questions. You mentioned that obviously RXR
- 21 fits the bill and checked off all the boxes
- 22 for you guys. Can you tell us in the interest
- of transparency what other entities responded
- 24 to the RFEI and who they were?
- MR. YORMARK: I don't know who

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 responded to RFEI.
- 3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: You
- 4 mentioned some of the criteria, the boxes that
- 5 you were looking for. But it seems to me that
- 6 there are a lot of developers on Long Island
- 7 who fit the bill in some of those
- 8 experience-related matters and comprehensive
- 9 projects here on Long Island. Maybe not to
- 10 the extent of this one but there are a number
- of other builders that I'm aware of too.
- MR. YORMARK: By the way, I
- wanted to say I didn't disparage any
- developers or for that matter even say that
- there weren't other developers that were well
- 16 qualified. What I said is we went for the
- 17 best. We have one chance to do it.
- 18 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Can you say
- 19 what makes them the best?
- 20 MR. YORMARK: For many of the
- 21 reasons I said before, starting with the fact
- that their senior management team has been
- part of some of the biggest and most profound
- 24 placemaking entertainment communities in this
- 25 city. When you think of Citi Field, Yankee

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 Stadium and Barclays Center and many others.
- 3 When you think of the replacement parking that
- 4 is necessary to be expeditious because we have
- 5 to move and execute quickly as possible to get
- 6 the Hub developed. That was a major factor.
- 7 Obviously the financial wherewithal
- 8 to take on a billion five project is
- 9 critical. Scott has shown that he can do big
- 10 projects and has the financial wherewithal to
- 11 execute them.
- 12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Would you
- say the parking situation really put them over
- 14 the top?
- MR. YORMARK: I wouldn't say that
- 16 anything in particular. I said it's all about
- the combination that when you bundle up all
- 18 the great things he and his team are doing
- 19 they were to us the clear favorite. And they
- 20 shared a collective vision that we have for
- 21 the site. Which is obviously very important.
- 22 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Back to you
- 23 Scott. There's been a lot of questions today
- from my colleagues on the PLA. When you met
- with us in the caucus gentlemen, Scott, you

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- indicated, at least intimated, that there
- 3 might be a lower residential wage rate for the
- 4 residential portions of the contract. Can you
- 5 expand on that?
- 6 MR. RECHLER: Again, as I've
- 7 said, I've had conversations with labor about
- 8 this is that there's been an evolution about
- 9 how labor has recognized to be able to
- 10 effectively bring on different members at
- different levels, at different wages levels,
- to be able to bring on projects affordably.
- 13 From my conversations with the members of the
- labor here, I've seen a very progressive
- 15 constructive approach of trying to think them
- through so that you are in a situation where
- you can actually deliver products at a price
- they're economically viable.
- There's a realization by all of us
- 20 at the end of the day if you can't make a
- 21 project economically viable then you have no
- 22 jobs. Forget talking about what level of
- wages we are discussing. We are discussing
- 24 zero. What I have found so far is that I have
- 25 a partner in labor that is also realistic and

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 pragmatic and wants to get this done and has
- 3 some new tools in their tool chest and new
- 4 ways of looking at things that where going to
- 5 look at to be able to find ways to bring this
- 6 forward at the right price.
- 7 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: That's
- 8 developer speak that's not labor speaking in
- 9 terms --
- 10 MR. RECHLER: I'm the one in the
- 11 chair today.
- 12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I
- understand. But you're not hearing those
- 14 sentiments from labor that they recognize that
- in the residential component of the project
- there might be a variation.
- MR. RECHLER: I'm hearing from
- labor today. And again, not just here but on
- other projects I'm working on. I won't say
- 20 all labor but I would say the members of labor
- 21 that I've spoke to about this project have a
- very progressive, pragmatic view of a
- realization that just like I need to change my
- company and everyone needs to change how we do
- things, that for them to be competitive and

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 enable progress to occur that we have to be
- 3 more innovative than we may have been before.
- 4 Just as I mentioned earlier I think
- 5 it was to the Minority Leader's comments. If
- 6 there's a shortage of labor locally because
- 7 people aren't trained then they may have to go
- 8 out on the markets. If they can actually
- 9 start training people locally at a different
- 10 level and a different price point then that
- 11 makes sense. So there are models and I'm sure
- 12 they'd be glad to share it with you that
- they've actually implemented where they bring
- on different price points, different levels of
- training that ultimately maybe they then carry
- on in the union or maybe they don't carry on
- in the union depending on how things progress
- 18 with them.
- 19 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: What you're
- 20 saying then in your conversations with labor
- 21 here you've concluded that they are aware that
- there could be a variation in the wage scale
- for the residential component?
- MR. RECHLER: I don't want to
- 25 just say the residential. What I concluded in

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- 2 my conversation with labor here in the Long
- 3 Island business trades and Matty and others,
- 4 not just here elsewhere, is that there's a
- 5 realization that to be able to hire locally,
- 6 hire with diversity, bring in projects at the
- 7 right economics that a project can actually
- 8 move forward, that there are other scales and
- 9 other tools they are starting to use. And
- then there are other subsidies that they are
- able to bring through their unions that they
- 12 bring to the projects. We are going to work
- with them to do that, and I think I have a
- 14 high degree of confidence that we are going to
- 15 be successful based on my conversations with
- 16 them.
- 17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Would you
- 18 say then that -- first of all, you're not
- 19 planning on excluding any of the building
- 20 trades; is that correct? In your
- 21 conversations you are not excluding any of
- 22 trades? Something you said bothered me a
- little bit and you talked about the Manhattan
- 24 project and the Pier 52 or whatever.
- MR. RECHLER: 57.

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- 2 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: That certain
- 3 unions, labor unions may not be equipped to
- 4 handle certain aspects. I have to believe
- 5 that every aspect of this project, every labor
- 6 union on Long Island would be able to handle
- 7 it. Would you agree with that statement?
- 8 MR. RECHLER: I would agree with
- 9 that statement with one caveat. No one loves
- 10 caveats. The caveat is that we got to be able
- 11 to make sure they have enough people locally
- 12 that work here that can provide diversity --
- 13 good. Guys, I want to do this PLA. I want to
- 14 do this union. But we're going to work
- 15 together. That's the way we do this.
- 16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: In your
- other projects on Long Island, Glen Cove in
- 18 particular, can you pin down or define for me
- what you, Scott Rechler, consider affordable
- when you talk about affordable housing?
- MR. RECHLER: We have different
- 22 arrangements. Glen Cove I think it's 65
- percent of AMI. I think that's what that is
- in Glen Cove is what the affordable housing
- 25 is. But each area calls for a different

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 number. Maybe it was 65 or 85 percent. I
- 3 don't remember exactly. I can get you the
- 4 number. But that's the number for affordable
- 5 housing.
- 6 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So there is
- 7 a formula for here, for this project?
- MR. RECHLER: 60 percent to 130
- 9 percent of AMI is a formula that was agreed
- 10 to.
- 11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Would be
- 12 this project.
- 13 MR. RECHLER: That was Glen
- 14 Cove. The formula, I think the zoning here is
- 15 I think 120 percent AMI.
- 16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: This would
- all be part of the framework that needs to be
- 18 culled a little bit?
- MR. RECHLER: Correct.
- 20 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: You talked
- 21 about options that if the so-called millenial
- 22 housing is not acceptable to the Town of
- 23 Hempstead. I have some experience with this
- too. When you are changing the density of
- 25 housing, whether it's a one bedroom or two

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- bedroom and now you're making it a four
- 3 bedroom that's generally a problem with most
- 4 municipalities. If that does become a problem
- 5 with the Town of Hempstead what other vision
- 6 do you have to secure or attract this
- 7 millenial housing in an affordable way? Now
- 8 your profit margin becomes different when you
- 9 can only have two bedrooms occupied as opposed
- 10 to four.
- MR. RECHLER: There's a mix of
- 12 studios, one bedrooms, two bedrooms that would
- be more of a traditional housing, multifamily
- 14 housing that we would put forward. Again, we
- will work with the Town of Hempstead and see
- where they come out. As I said earlier,
- because they're traditionally not couples or
- 18 families the bedrooms don't necessarily
- 19 result, equate to the number of people.
- 20 That's been part of the model when other
- 21 people have done this before. So if you have
- one bedroom to a couple that's two people.
- 23 You get a three bed millenial housing that's
- three people.
- 25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: We just have

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 a vested interest here to see that our
- 3 colleague Josh Lafazan gets to move out of his
- 4 parents' basement into regular housing. Thank
- 5 you guys very much.
- 6 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Thank you
- 7 Presiding Officer. That is a true statement.
- Good evening Mr. Rechler and Mr.
- 9 Yormark and to all my friends in labor here
- 10 today.
- 11 This redevelopment process began in
- 12 2004. I was ten years old. It's been 14
- years and here again we find ourselves where
- 14 rather than serving as the epicenter of our
- 15 county, a place where commerce and
- 16 entertainment and culture can intersect the
- Hub remains a mostly vacant area of squandered
- opportunity. Developing the Hub correctly and
- 19 smartly has the potential to anchor Nassau
- 20 County's millenial generation right here.
- I speak today as the voice for
- 22 Nassau County's next generation. Nassau
- 23 County's youths are leaving in droves and I'm
- 24 sick and tired of seeing millenials leave Long
- 25 Island. It's not rocket science as to why

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- they're leaving. They need a place to stay,
- 3 they need a place to play and they need a
- 4 place to work. And that is why it is crucial
- 5 we employ some long-term vision here.
- I sent a letter to my constituents
- yesterday in which I articulated that I would
- 8 be inclined to vote for this item if RXR would
- 9 support my following two proposals.
- 10 My first proposal is to build micro
- 11 apartments at the Hub modeled for millenials
- 12 Mr. Rechler, I cannot be more excited with
- what you have shown me today. Instead of
- 14 conventional apartments, millenials
- desperately want and need to build these micro
- 16 apartments for young people in the mold of we
- 17 live communities with smaller units along side
- 18 communal spaces and amenities. At a time when
- 19 40 percent of millenials are living with
- 20 relatives, I being one of them, the demand for
- 21 affordable next generation housing is
- 22 obvious. And this type of co-living space,
- 23 which is attractive to millenials and has
- 24 achieved success, it's a proven concept in New
- York City, it can and will work at the Hub

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 here in Nassau County.
- 3 Speak to any young person, the
- 4 biggest barrier for millenials staying in
- 5 Nassau County is the burden of housing costs.
- 6 When we anchor our young people here we will
- 7 breathe economic life into our industries
- 8 while maintaining an attractive workforce for
- 9 our companies.
- 10 And I've lived in this type of
- 11 co-living space myself. As a graduate student
- 12 at Harvard in 2017 my apartment was around 400
- 13 square feet. Yet it was an attractive
- 14 opportunity and it felt palatial because I was
- living on my own. As the sole millenial on
- this dais I have firsthand understanding of
- the difficulty in finding affordable next
- 18 generation housing and nobody is committed
- more to this concept than I am. From your
- presentation I'm proud to say I'm in strong,
- vehement support of your millenial housing
- 22 opportunities.
- 23 And most importantly, I thank you
- 24 for helping to make this specific millenial
- dream that we can stay right here in the only

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 place we've ever called home hopefully become
- 3 a reality.
- 4 But my question here for your first
- 5 proposal is this. Will RXR commit to a plan
- 6 where 50 percent of these housing units be
- 7 designated as affordable housing? We know
- 8 that the plot only has 500 units. We want to
- 9 maximize it. Will you commit to at least half
- of the units being millenial housing?
- 11 MR. RECHLER: Again, we are
- 12 proposing this and I appreciate your
- 13 commentary. That was very well-articulated
- 14 and I obviously fully agree. But we are
- subject to the Town of Hempstead. What I will
- 16 commit to is we are going to be proposing to
- the Town of Hempstead this plan and work to
- 18 try to achieve, which right now contemplates
- 19 half of it being the millenial housing.
- 20 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Obviously
- you can't control things that are out of your
- 22 direct control but 50 percent is the plan?
- MR. RECHLER: That's correct.
- 24 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Thank you
- very much sir. That's music to my ears.

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2	The second proposal in regard to
3	the Hub is to push for a new discounted LIRR
4	fare for millenials. For millenials across
5	this county a major drawback of moving back
6	home to Long Island after college is the high
7	cost of transportation. And a great deal of
8	these young people who live on Long Island and
9	work in New York City, almost all millenials
10	say that it is not affordable to pay hundreds
11	of dollars for a monthly LIRR pass while also
12	contributing hundreds of dollars to a student
13	loan repayment.
14	Most alarmingly, they say that it
15	is the cost of the LIRR ticket that is pushing
16	them to move permanently to New York City
17	where they choose to shoulder a pricier
18	apartment with a \$2.75 Metrocard swipe.
19	So my idea is very simple. Let's
20	give these young people who choose to live in
21	Nassau County and work in Manhattan a
22	discounted LIRR ticket. This would be a
23	simple yet effective way to make Nassau County
24	a far more attractive place for 18 to 29 year
25	olds to live. And in relation to the Hub

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 specifically an affordable LIRR pass could
- 3 allow millenials to live in these millenial
- 4 housing, allow millenials to live in these
- 5 micro apartments and work in Manhattan and as
- 6 BRT, or bus rapid transit, would already be
- 7 set up to shuttle residents from the Hub to
- 8 the Mineola or the Carle Place train
- 9 stations. Young people would absolutely take
- advantage of this service. This discounted
- 11 pass would also enable college students and
- 12 millenials across Nassau County to explore the
- burgeoning work and recreational opportunities
- 14 at the Hub spearheaded by BSE Global.
- So my question here is this to both
- of you gentlemen. Will RXR and BSE Global
- through your efforts and through your
- expertise commit to helping move this proposal
- 19 forward, which I believe is germane not just
- to the success of the Hub but to the overall
- 21 prosperity and future of Nassau County?
- MR. RECHLER: I appreciate the
- 23 question. From my standpoint, I'm a board
- member of the MTA and I formally recuse myself
- with the MTA of anything to do with them

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 related to this project. But I would
- 3 encourage you to actually come to an MTA board
- 4 meeting, and I think now is the time to do it
- 5 because they are having discussions about
- fares and make that point to the board. I
- 7 think it's worth making.
- MR. YORMARK: Josh, on behalf of
- 9 BSE Global and the Coliseum, of course we
- 10 would work together on ways we can make it
- 11 better. Kind of from that perspective. No
- 12 quarantees. I'm not signing up to underwrite
- 13 the discount myself. But working together and
- 14 moving this forward absolutely.
- 15 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: I appreciate
- 16 that and I thank you both for your time. I
- just want to state for the record this is not
- 18 applicable to the two of you but as a whole in
- 19 Nassau County's history taking action to
- 20 retain our next generation has to and must
- 21 immediately replace empty rhetoric. That is
- 22 why I strongly support a Hub project which
- 23 incorporates these two crucial proposals that
- I put forward and contains a truly bold vision
- 25 to make the Hub the transformational and

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 noteworthy project that it must become.
- 3 So, I thank you from the bottom of
- 4 my heart again for pushing to make this
- 5 housing dream a realty. If I didn't have to
- 6 live in my district I'd sign up to live there
- 7 tomorrow as Legislator Drucker noted. I wish
- 8 you to best in your endeavor. Thank you
- 9 both.
- 10 LEGISLATOR MULE: The last one of
- 11 the legislators. Thank you so much gentlemen
- 12 for your presentation. As has been stated
- before, we have one chance to do this right.
- 14 It's critically important that we take this
- opportunity and run with it in the best way
- 16 possible for all the stakeholders. I'm
- 17 cautiously optimist that stake we will get it
- done this time.
- Most of my colleagues asked my
- 20 questions already but that has led to a couple
- of follow-up questions which I will say now.
- 22 You said that ground breaking can happen
- within 18 to 24 months, correct?
- MR. RECHLER: That's the hope.
- 25 LEGISLATOR MULE: Then how long

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 do you see between that and the end of the
- 3 project?
- 4 MR. RECHLER: Again, right now
- 5 we're thinking about it in multiple phases.
- 6 If we broke ground, I would say breaking
- 7 ground for phase one probably another 24
- 8 months before we deliver phase one. Then if
- 9 the markets continue to warrant it then
- 10 probably another two or three years to bring
- 11 out the balance.
- 12 LEGISLATOR MULE: The next gen
- housing concept that you talked about is that
- 14 included in this project?
- MR. RECHLER: Yes, it is.
- 16 LEGISLATOR MULE: That is single
- 17 family housing?
- MR. RECHLER: Multifamily still.
- 19 Think about it as an apartment that has a
- 20 little studio next to it. Almost a one
- 21 bedroom that's also sort of a two bedroom but
- there's a little bit of privacy for your child
- that's living with you. Instead of living in
- the basement they have a little bit of their
- own privacy attached to that.

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- 2 LEGISLATOR MULE: In talking
- 3 about transportation, I understand that Scott
- 4 you can't talk to the MTA, but have there been
- 5 discussions with the MTA and with NICE in
- 6 terms of coordinating transportation? I know
- you talked about your own solutions for
- 8 transportation. But has there been any
- 9 coordination?
- 10 MR. RECHLER: Our teams will be
- 11 coordinating with NICE through this process
- 12 but there hasn't been yet.
- 13 LEGISLATOR MULE: One of the
- 14 questions was about partners. Legislator
- 15 Rhoads brought that up and you talked about
- 16 that you might use partners with life science
- buildings or hotels or something like that.
- Will they be required to adhere to the PLAs
- 19 that we talked about?
- MR. RECHLER: Again, we were
- 21 giving examples as to where we might use
- 22 partners. We haven't yet contemplated doing
- that. I was trying to answer the question
- with examples. But if we did they would be
- subject to all the requirements.

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  LEGISLATOR MULE:
- MR. RECHLER: Any partner would

Any --

- 4 be subject to the same requirements that we
- 5 would be subject to.
- 6 LEGISLATOR MULE: Then my final
- question is, Legislator Bynoe brought up about
- 8 MWBEs. What are your goals with regard to
- 9 that and how would you meet those goals?
- MR. RECHLER: Again, we will be
- 11 establishing those goals as part of this
- 12 process as we're going through developing the
- community benefits agreement. And the theory
- 14 here is to work locally, work with the labor
- and try to figure out the most effective way
- to create meaningful jobs, diversity, across
- the board. So we will put together a program
- 18 that we think is something that is tangible
- 19 and will be able to track the results and real
- 20 targets to it.
- 21 LEGISLATOR MULE: Just my final
- 22 comment. My daughter lives in one of those
- 23 apartments in Manhattan that you've talked
- about where it's four separate girls that they
- 25 each have their own bedroom.

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 MR. RECHLER: The fake walls or
- 3 the real walls?
- 4 LEGISLATOR MULE: She actually
- 5 has a fake wall. A real wall would be
- 6 better. She loves it. All her friends live
- 7 like that and that is truly the way that that
- 8 generation is living. It makes a lot of sense
- 9 to me that you are actually trying to develop
- 10 something like that with real walls. Sounds
- 11 great.
- 12 MR. RECHLER: Thank you. I
- 13 appreciate it.
- 14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: This
- project has been 20 years in the making. I'm
- beginning to feel like this hearing is going
- to last that long. First of all, thank you
- 18 Scott and thank you Brett for your
- 19 presentations. This is the beginning of a
- long, long dialogue and process and we
- 21 appreciate it and we look forward to working
- 22 with you.
- The next scheduled speaker is the
- 24 administration. So what we've decided to do,
- since we have a large stack of speakers,

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 people who are interested in speaking is to go
- 3 to public comment. This item is on the
- 4 calendar for committees on Monday, the full
- 5 legislative on the 17th, so we will have ample
- 6 opportunity time to hear from the
- 7 administration and ask them our questions.
- 8 But in the mean time, we have a ton of people
- 9 who have been waiting patiently and I want to
- 10 start calling them up. Just ask you to try to
- abide as much as you can by the time limit so
- we can get everyone up in a timely fashion.
- 13 You gentlemen can stay right there. If you
- 14 want to move also.
- 15 First speaker is Matty Aracich from
- 16 Nassau Suffolk Building Trades Counsel.
- MR. ARACICH: Good evening. My
- 18 name is Matthew Aracich. I am the president
- of the Building Construction Trades Counsel.
- 20 I represent 60,000 members of Nassau and
- 21 Suffolk County. I want to thank you all for
- 22 your support. First off with Presiding
- Officer and with respect to also Kevan
- 24 Abrahams and to the balance of the counsel.
- What you have shown here today is that you are

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- definitely aligned with labor. That is
- 3 something that's been a long time coming and
- 4 quite frankly we appreciate it. What I'm
- 5 going to ask here is for everybody in the
- 6 audience to give them a round of applause.
- 7 As stated for the record, my name
- 8 is Matthew Aracich and I am the president of
- 9 the Building and Construction Trades Counsel
- 10 of Nassau and Suffolk Counties. I rise in
- 11 support of this amendment pertaining to the
- 12 Nassau Hub that would permit partnership of
- 13 RXR and BSE Global to move forward in
- developing an acceptable proposal designed to
- 15 advance the interests of Nassau County and
- 16 attain site approval from the Town of
- 17 Hempstead.
- Our members who are in attendance,
- 19 I brought along a little bit of family and
- 20 friends, are just a small portion of the
- 21 60,000 proud men and women who I have the
- 22 honor of representing. Each of these
- tradesmen and tradeswomen are part of a team
- who consistently deliver projects on time and
- on budget, which has earned us the reputation

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- 2 for exhibiting value on display every day.
- 3 The Building Trades Counsel of
- 4 Nassau and Suffolk Counties and the Veterans
- 5 Coliseum have shared a long and distinguished
- 6 history. Our most recent encounter involved
- our members renovating the Nassau Coliseum
- 8 during the years 2015 and 2016. The project
- 9 was completed by utilizing a workforce
- 10 comprised of 100 percent building trades
- 11 unions. These renovations resuscitated a
- dying structure and today it is an
- architecturally striking facility.
- However, aside from its beauty, the
- most noticeable attribute is the fact that all
- 16 Long Islanders can have pleasure from a wide
- array of events hosted there. This Saturday,
- 18 December 1st, the Islanders make their long
- 19 anticipated return to the Nassau Coliseum. So
- 20 now it's only fitting that we focus and shifts
- 21 to reveal the untapped potential of the
- 22 parking area surrounding the Coliseum.
- 23 A short time ago, I met with Scott
- 24 Rechler at the Long Island Association's event
- 25 held at the Nassau Coliseum after listening to

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- 2 his joint presentation with BSE Global and the
- 3 Nassau Hub. Immediately upon conclusion of
- 4 the event I approached him to discuss his
- 5 assertion on RXR's goals regarding community
- 6 involvement. I questioned him in a very
- 7 direct manner on his plan to recruit using
- 8 local hiring policies. His immediate response
- 9 was that's what we need from you and your
- 10 affiliates. Instantaneously, the conversation
- 11 switched from a position of concern to a
- 12 position of collaboration.
- Soon afterward, I met with Mr.
- 14 Rechler and his team at the RXR headquarters
- 15 to discuss the development of the Hub. We
- 16 engaged in a conversation about the scope of
- the project and how to manage our expectations
- which would construct this project under the
- 19 terms of a project labor agreement without the
- 20 need to carve out a residential component of
- 21 the project. It was certainly the beginning
- of a meaningful dialogue and I appreciate his
- openness and his concerns that he brought to
- 24 my attention. We ended the meeting with a
- 25 mutual understanding that it is up to each of

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- 2 us to ensure that this process is a success.
- 3 I am elated to see that a project labor
- 4 agreement was included in today's
- 5 presentation.
- I am confident that with the
- 7 support we have from County Executive Curran,
- 8 all of you in the legislature, Supervisor
- 9 Gillen and the Hempstead Town Council, RXR
- 10 Realty, BSE Global, the building trades
- 11 affiliates and most importantly the community,
- we will develop the finest approach to make
- this project become a reality.
- 14 In order to get there, success
- 15 requires many partners and it starts with each
- of you casting your first vote. Without your
- approval of the development agreement plan any
- development at the Hub cannot be achieved.
- 19 Your approval allows BSE and RXR the time to
- 20 fully develop their proposal, including
- 21 negotiating the economics and metrics with the
- 22 county, a meaningful community benefit
- 23 agreement and entering into a process of
- securing a PLA with the Building Trades
- 25 Council.

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- 2 But the process necessary to
- 3 complete this feat, you must take the
- 4 amendments up in December and pass each of the
- 5 three components before advancing to the next
- 6 step.
- 7 The Building Trades Council
- 8 enthusiastically asks you all to do that. We
- 9 cannot afford to let this transformative
- 10 opportunity of a generation slip through our
- 11 fingers.
- 12 Sincerely, Matthew Aracich,
- 13 representing the trades.
- 14 Aside from that letter there are
- 15 some comments. The comments that I have are
- 16 you guys held him to the fire. Everything you
- asked was in position of saying that labor is
- 18 first and that you want to make the community
- and that Hub a reality. To make it successful
- 20 I believe that we can do that and I assume
- 21 that even through my skills and through
- 22 Scott's skills we can get to the place we need
- to be. There is an open dialogue there. I
- 24 can speak his language and he understands
- our's. So more than anything, when the

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- 2 communication is ongoing and there is no
- 3 breakdown there is no other output except
- 4 success. So thank you. I appreciate it.
- 5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 6 very much Matthew. If you want to present
- 7 that letter to the clerk we can make it part
- 8 of the record.
- 9 Kevin Law, president of the Long
- 10 Island Association.
- 11 MR. LAW: Thank you Presiding
- 12 Officer. Kevin Law president and CEO of the
- 13 Long Island Association, Melville, New York.
- Members of the legislature, given
- 15 the time and the temperature I will speak for
- less than one minute and hopefully set the
- tone for the rest of the speakers. I
- 18 encourage you to allow the process to go
- 19 forward. I've been working and advocating for
- the redevelopment of the Hub for the past
- 21 decade with the last two administrations and
- 22 now with the current administration. I've
- 23 never been more impressed with BSE Global, RXR
- 24 and now you added Northwell. I really think
- it's a dream team. I'm optimistic something

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- 2 can get done. I believe you have all raised a
- 3 lot of legitimate interests and concerns. Let
- 4 the process go forward. Approve the
- 5 amendment. Let them work on the detailed
- 6 plans. Let them work on the agreements that
- you have been asking questions about. You get
- 8 other bites at the apple. The town will get
- 9 other bites at the apple. Let's move the
- 10 project forward. It's our last best chance to
- 11 do so. Thank you very much.
- 12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 13 Mr. Law. David Kapell from Nassau Hub
- 14 Coalition and The Rausch Foundation.
- MR. KAPELL: Good evening. My
- 16 name is Dave Kapell and I'm the executive
- director of the Nassau Hub Coalition.
- 18 Presiding Officer Nicolello and members of the
- 19 legislature, thank you for the opportunity to
- 20 address you this evening. We are an
- 21 island-wide group representing business,
- labor, academic and research institutions,
- 23 not-for-profit organizations and individuals
- who believe that proper development of the
- Nassau Hub is the key to positioning Long

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- 2 Island as a competitive corridor of
- 3 innovation.
- To do so, we have to have the kind
- of live, work, play environment that appeals
- 6 to the young people who are our future.
- 7 In a report issued last year the
- 8 Long Island index found that the development
- 9 of an innovation district at the Hub would
- 10 position Nassau competitively to attract
- 11 hi-tech and biotech firms. But this requires
- the right kind of walkable community to
- 13 attract the needed talent.
- The proposal before you from BSE
- 15 Global and RXR offers just the right mix of
- 16 housing, retail, entertainment, open space and
- 17 economic development to create a vibrant
- innovation district that will put people to
- work in good jobs and produce crucial new
- 20 sales and property tax revenues to reduce the
- 21 burden on Nassau and Hempstead taxpayers.
- I would like to present for entry
- 23 into the record the following letters of
- 24 support. Gene Bernstein, chairman of
- Northville Industries. Anne Brigis, president

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- of the YMCA of Long Island. Ernest Canadeo,
- 3 president of EGC Group. Bob Catell, former
- 4 chairman of Long Island Association. Bob
- 5 Coughlan, principal of Tritec Real Estate
- 6 Company. Esther of Fortunoff Jewelry.
- 7 Richard Humann, President and CEO, H2M
- 8 Architects and Engineers. Justin Micari, a
- 9 young person making a life on Long Island.
- 10 Joseph Manfre, a Nassau property owner.
- 11 Charles Prizzi, vice president for
- 12 Development, Government and Community
- 13 Relations at Cold Spring Harbor Lab. And
- 14 Joseph Troiano, former mayor of the Village of
- 15 Stewart Manor.
- With nearly 20 years of failed
- attempts at redevelopment, the Hub has become
- 18 a symbol of dysfunction and wasted
- opportunity. But the good news is that you
- are presented today with a perfect opportunity
- 21 to turn this into a major success story for
- 22 Nassau and Long Island. I urge you to grab
- the brass ring and approve the proposed lease
- 24 amendment. Thank you.
- 25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you

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- 2 Mr. Kapell. Mark Herbst from the Long Island
- 3 Contractors Association.
- 4 MR. LANSBURY: Unfortunately Mr.
- 5 Herbst had to leave. My name is Seth
- 6 Lansbury. I'm reading this statement on his
- 7 behalf. Presiding Officer Nicolello, members
- 8 of the Nassau County legislature. Again, my
- 9 is Seth Lansbury and I'm reading a statement
- on behalf of Mark Herbst, the executive
- director of Long Island Contractors
- 12 Association.
- We appreciate the opportunity to
- share with you our organization's full support
- of the proposal before you to develop the
- 16 property known as the Nassau Hub.
- 17 The Long Island Contractors
- 18 Association represents the interests of Long
- 19 Island's premier heavy construction general
- 20 contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and
- 21 industry supporters. Our industry's focus is
- 22 primarily on building and maintaining our
- 23 region's vital infrastructure; its highways,
- 24 bridges and transit systems as well as
- utilities, water quality and waste water

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- 2 systems as well as other public works. We
- 3 carry sense of pride that many of LICA's 170
- 4 member firms are multigenerational,
- 5 family-owned businesses that are located on
- 6 Long Island who continue to work and employ
- 7 neighbors in our community. We anxiously look
- 8 forward to building the Nassau Hub.
- 9 Situated on part of the land of the
- 10 former Mitchel Field Air Force Base, which was
- decommissioned in 1961, the Nassau Hub
- 12 property has been subject to multiple
- proposals over the decades, all of which were
- 14 rejected. We hope this time will be
- 15 different.
- The focal point of the property is
- the recently refurbished Nassau Veterans
- 18 Memorial Coliseum, where the roads surrounding
- it bear the names of pioneers who helped
- 20 establish Long Islander as the cradle of
- 21 aviation. The heavy construction industry of
- 22 Long Island hopes today's leaders will summon
- the same courage of past pioneers and move
- 24 forward with this important project, and
- others like it, to grow our region's economic

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- 2 base.
- 3 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard, which
- 4 runs along the northern boundary of the
- 5 Coliseum, was named for the famous aviator who
- 6 flew the Spirit of St. Louis on the first solo
- 7 trans-Atlantic flight from nearby Roosevelt
- 8 Field to Paris, France. On the western end,
- 9 the road intersects with Quentin Roosevelt
- 10 Boulevard, a tribute to the daredevil fighter
- 11 pilot and youngest son of President Theodore
- 12 Roosevelt, who was the only son of a U.S.
- 13 President ever to die in battle.
- 14 The eastern perimeter of the
- property is bounded by James Doolittle
- 16 Boulevard, named for the Medal of Honor Air
- 17 Force general who led the first aerial attack
- on the Japanese mainland during World War II,
- and who later led the speed tests and
- development of navigation equipment at Mitchel
- 21 Field.
- 22 Opposite the south entrance of the
- 23 Coliseum is Glenn Curtiss Boulevard, which
- commemorates the aviation and motorcycle
- pioneer whose engine manufacturing founded the

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- U.S. aircraft industry.
- Finally, Earle Ovington Boulevard,
- 4 which runs along the Nassau Hub's western
- 5 side, pays homage to the notable aviator who,
- 6 among other accomplishments, flew the first
- 7 official airmail delivery under the aegis of
- 8 the United States Post Office Department from
- 9 Garden City to the Mineola post office on
- 10 September 23, 1911. The six mile flight took
- 11 six minutes at an altitude of 500 feet.
- 12 Reportedly, Ovington threw the mail sack over
- the cockpit only to have the bag break when it
- 14 hit the ground. But true to the postal
- 15 service mantra, all mail was recovered and
- 16 eventually delivered.
- Past proposals for the Nassau Hub
- 18 may have been tossed over the side, but now is
- the time to recover those dreams and finally
- deliver on behalf of the Long Island
- 21 community.
- The member firms and our labor
- 23 partners of the Long Island Contractors
- 24 Association stand ready to deliver. We are
- 25 ready to build. We are ready to assist our

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- 2 public and private officials to create new
- 3 destinations for new businesses, new
- 4 technologies, new entertainment attractions,
- 5 new restaurants and new living accommodations
- 6 for our young and professional people.
- We encourage you to display the
- 8 same courage and vision of the past pioneers
- 9 whose names surround the Nassau Hub. This is
- 10 the time to move forward. This is the time to
- 11 support this project. Your decision will be
- 12 part of the legacy. Who knows, perhaps some
- day you may find yourself traveling on a new
- 14 roadway in the Nassau Hub named after you.
- 15 Thank you.
- 16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mitch
- 17 Pally from the Long Island Builders Institute.
- MS. SOLOMAN: I'm not Mitchell
- 19 Pally but he in his stead asked me to read his
- 20 statement. I'm going to read it as he wrote
- 21 it.
- My name is Mitch Pally and I am the
- 23 chief executive officer of the Long Island
- 24 Builders Institute, the largest residential
- 25 home building trade association in New York

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- 2 State. LIBI is very please to be here today
- 3 to express its strong support for the request
- 4 of RXR and BSE to finally develop the concrete
- 5 around the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum
- 6 at the Nassau Hub.
- 7 After many years, after many stops
- 8 and starts and after much deliberation, a
- 9 development team has come together which can
- 10 now provide Nassau County and all of Long
- 11 Island with the multifaceted development which
- is appropriate for the most important piece of
- 13 property in Nassau County. It's not just the
- 14 development team which we support. Clearly
- based upon their track records both RXR and
- 16 BSE are ready, willing and able to finance and
- 17 construct the new development.
- 18 It is also the plan to be
- developed, a multifaceted project which
- 20 includes the Coliseum itself, new and
- innovative research and development space to
- include medical and technology companies,
- 23 experiential retail to compliment the Coliseum
- 24 and the surrounding areas of both Hofstra
- 25 University and Museum Row and 500 housing

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- 2 units to bring families and individuals into
- 3 the area. It is a world class plan, bringing
- 4 together all of the development options for
- 5 the 21st Century into a world class
- 6 development in a Long Island which is ready
- 7 for this new type of development.
- It is time for all of us to come
- 9 together and make this project happen now.
- 10 Now is the time for the state of New York to
- 11 provide the funds promised. It is the time
- 12 for Nassau County to make the property
- available through this legislative body and it
- 14 is time for the Town of Hempstead to ensure
- that the development happens in an efficient
- and timely manner. It is also time for the
- developers to work with all of the parties and
- 18 stakeholders involved and make this an area
- which we can all be proud of.
- The Long Island Builders Institute
- 21 firmly believes that this is the team and this
- 22 is the plan and now is the time. We urge
- legislative approval as quickly as possible.
- 24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Eric
- 25 Alexander, Vision Long Island.

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- 2 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you
- 3 Presiding Officer, members of the board.
- 4 Great hearing so far today and we heard quite
- 5 a lot of dialogue with Scott Rechler and his
- 6 team. Very excited. There's a group, we have
- been involved in trying to see the Lighthouse
- 8 project originally in some form of
- 9 redevelopment of the Hub for many years. And
- 10 it seems like the stars are aligned. I'm
- 11 really glad with the collaborative spirit in
- the room with both of the developers the
- 13 legislature and the audience. That's
- 14 exciting.
- Number one, we praise the county
- 16 for doing an RFEI and opening up the process
- and moving through the style with the
- 18 legislature in a collaborative corrective way.
- Number two, what we do want to see
- and we always want to see development on Long
- 21 Island is best from the bottom up not from the
- 22 top down. While it's important to talk about
- this is a regional project, it's most
- important to hear from the neighbors in the
- 25 community who are most impacted. I know that

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- was referenced by Minority Leader Kevan
- 3 Abrahams and Mr. Rechler himself about
- 4 reaching out to the communities. Those
- 5 communities Uniondale, Westbury, Salisbury,
- 6 Hempstead, East Meadow and Garden City are all
- 7 mostly impacted by any form of development.
- 8 We do want to see that outreach occurring. I
- 9 know some folks were here from the Uniondale
- 10 community land trust and GUAAC and also some
- 11 folks from Hempstead and we have been in touch
- 12 with folks from East Meadow. We know there is
- a lot of interest in outreach as we move
- 14 forward. I know there will be future
- 15 meetings. We're going to cosponsor one. We
- are excited to see this level of interest come
- 17 back.
- 18 So with that, the most important
- thing that I think I know moving forward in
- 20 mix used vision that certainly Mr. Rechler
- 21 knows how to do and has done successfully in
- 22 other places. The town code is very deficient
- 23 in the design details of creating a real
- 24 place. It needs to be factored into the
- discussions of economics, whether it be a CBA

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- or PLA, is the reality of the yield and the
- 3 reality of some shifts that need to happen in
- 4 the town code. It could be done by variance
- 5 without opening SEQRA and taking two years.
- 6 Insuring that the Town of Hempstead is at the
- 7 table. I know Erin King-Sweeney had a great
- 8 meeting with Mr. Rechler and I know there's
- 9 going to be flexibility on the town side. But
- also there needs to be that dialogue to make
- 11 sure that realistically -- right now the code
- is designed it would create an outlet mall
- form or look like Selden or Earle Ovington
- 14 Boulevard as it exists today, a racetrack type
- design as opposed to a walkable design where
- 16 you're walking three or four miles an hour
- walking as opposed to design for 35 to 45
- 18 miles and hour driving. Those design details
- 19 are setback for all those things. I know
- 20 those are town issues. I want the county to
- 21 be sober that work needs to be done at the
- 22 town level but to really make this the
- 23 signature place that we all want to see.
- I think that everyone is going to
- work together in a collaborative fashion

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- 2 here. Everyone we spoke to wants to see
- 3 something move forward and certainly the
- 4 support of our organization is there. Thanks
- 5 for asking the hard questions. This style of
- 6 bringing everything out upfront is so great.
- 7 I'm happy. Thank you.
- 8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 9 Eric. John Dreber, Rausch Foundation.
- 10 Melissa Connelly from Hofstra University.
- MS. CONNELLY: Thank you
- 12 Presiding Officer, legislators. My name is
- 13 Melissa Connelly. I'm the vice president for
- 14 university relations at Hofstra. I appear
- today on behalf of President Rabinowitz, who
- wanted me to convey his regrets he was unable
- to be here to personally convey his support
- 18 for RXR and BSE and this project. I'm here to
- 19 formally submit a letter of support on behalf
- of Hofstra. If I could briefly summarize the
- 21 university's position. I characterize it as
- 22 complete support of this team and this
- 23 concept. We believe it is the right concept
- 24 at the right time and the right place.
- 25 At Hofstra, as everybody has

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- 2 already said, long advocated for the
- 3 development of this area. But this proposal
- 4 we think is the best opportunity and the most
- 5 real opportunity we've had. And now with the
- 6 proposal of the innovation center from our
- 7 partners at Northwell Health and the synergies
- 8 that that brings with our medical school and
- 9 other health-related institutions, we are
- 10 especially optimistic about the future of the
- 11 area.
- 12 This area is so central to the life
- of our county and the thousands of college
- 14 students that live right around it. Young
- people who need walkable development in the
- 16 area, but also the center of Nassau County and
- the opportunity to be a downtown. Our
- 18 students, the entire area deserve a vibrant
- 19 innovation hub.
- While we understand that this
- 21 process can be complex and complicated, we
- join everyone so far today it's our hope that
- we can come together through conversation and
- dialogue, as Mr. Rechler has already said, to
- 25 make this vision a reality for the good of all

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- 2 of us.
- On behalf of Hofstra I want to
- 4 thank all of you here today and I want to
- 5 thank RXR and BSE for giving us the
- 6 opportunity to speak in support of this
- 7 project.
- 8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 9 Melissa. Paule Pachter, Long Island Cares.
- 10 MR. PACHTER: Thank you for this
- opportunity to address the members of the
- 12 legislature in support of the proposal
- presented by RXR Developers and BSE Global to
- 14 reimagine the property surrounding the Nassau
- 15 Veterans Memorial Coliseum. More commonly
- 16 referred to as the Hub.
- 17 I'm sure that some of you are
- wondering why the regional food bank is taking
- 19 a position on the development project. It's
- 20 actually the type of issue that those of us
- 21 working with people in need should be
- 22 concerned about. Our work at Long Island
- 23 Cares is much more diverse than the provision
- of emergency food to feed the 272,000 of our
- 25 neighbors in need. Our work has always been

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- 2 about what we can do as a humanitarian
- organization and as a region to lift people up
- 4 and improve their opportunities to become more
- 5 self sufficient.
- I believe that the current proposal
- 7 by RXR and BSE Global can achieve the
- 8 objective of lifting our region and many of
- 9 its residents up both culturally and
- 10 economically. As part of the proposal the
- developers have committed to creating good
- 12 paying jobs for many Long Islanders who remain
- underemployed. They've identified core groups
- of veterans, minorities and other populations
- that will benefit from the jobs in the
- 16 construction trades, entertainment, retail
- industry, health care and other areas that are
- an integral part of this major project.
- The creation of good paying jobs is
- an important part of our mission because it
- 21 allows people to move out of poverty and
- 22 improve the quality of life for themselves and
- 23 their families.
- The RXR and BSE Global project also
- touches upon a major obstacle for young people

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- and families in Nassau County and that is the
- 3 limited availability of affordable housing.
- 4 There are too many young people between the
- 5 ages of 21 and 34 who can't afford to move out
- 6 of their family home and are living in
- 7 basement apartments. Young people who are
- 8 working and attending college are buried under
- 9 debt for their foreseeable futures in Nassau
- 10 County. To be asked to spend upwards of 50
- 11 percent of their income on housing is
- unrealistic and unconscionable. The housing
- component within this proposal I believe
- 14 recognizes this reality and takes a
- 15 significant first step in developing real
- 16 workforce housing for our young residents.
- For decades the Nassau Hub has
- served as a political albatross, dividing our
- 19 residents. It's divided local government,
- 20 civic organizations and it's catering to the
- 21 nimbyism that often defines our region. Our
- 22 region has changed. Our residents have
- 23 changed. Our economics have changed, and as
- you saw recently, our politics have changed.
- 25 It's time we looked towards our future and the

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- 2 needs of our changing demographics. I
- 3 encourage you to support the RXR and BSE
- 4 Global proposal to develop the property
- 5 surrounding the Coliseum through a bold vision
- of not who we are but what we can be.
- 7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 8 Mr. Pachter. Tony Macagnone, Oyster Bay
- 9 councilman and for the New England Counsel of
- 10 Carpenters.
- 11 MR. MACAGNONE: Thank you
- 12 Presiding Officer, legislators. I know your
- pain sitting up there so I will be very
- 14 brief. I represent 2500 union carpenters that
- 15 live in Nassau County. We are one of the
- 16 unions that Mr. Rechler spoke about that
- 17 realizes economic times call for economic
- changes and we look forward to working with
- 19 him on this project. Look forward to working
- on a PLA.
- 21 I've been around quite a few
- 22 years. My daughters going places. Well, I
- remember they were all psyched about the Hub
- 24 and Islanders staying here and everything
- else. Unfortunately, both of them moved off

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- of Long Island to cheaper housing, better
- 3 opportunities. That wouldn't have happened if
- 4 this project went through. I'm hoping that
- 5 this project gets moved through the process
- 6 quickly, thoroughly and we are looking forward
- 7 to building it in the future. Thank you very
- 8 much and have a good evening.
- 9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Lisa Tyson
- 10 from the Long Island Progressive Coalition.
- MS. TYSON: Good evening. My
- 12 name is Lisa Tyson, director of the Long
- 13 Island Progressive Coalition. We are a
- 14 multi-issue grassroots citizen-run
- organization. We have been around for 40
- 16 years. When I was on my way here, I'm in my
- office and I need a pad. I happen to pick the
- 18 Lighthouse at Long Island pad. Literally from
- 19 like 15 years ago. We wanted this project to
- 20 go forward. We had a big campaign Hire Me at
- the Lighthouse. The concept was, let's look
- 22 at the two square miles around the Hub and
- have preferential hiring for the communities
- 24 around there.
- We also engaged with the county

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- 2 executive and Charles Wang to make sure that
- 3 there was affordable housing on the site. At
- 4 the time it was a challenge to keep it on the
- 5 site to be honest. Back then it was hard to
- 6 get affordable housing. Now it's already
- 7 there. You want it, which is awesome, but we
- 8 want to make it's good affordable housing.
- 9 Tiered income levels, not just at the highest
- 10 120 percent and under. You want to make sure
- 11 there's all levels of income.
- We do want this project to move
- 13 forward. We think it's a great opportunity
- 14 for Long Island. We think that the labor
- 15 pieces we heard today it has to be done right
- 16 with labor. It has to have labor building
- it. It has to have labor after it's built
- 18 too. Because we have to have the paying jobs
- long term for everyone in the community to be
- able to sustain our communities.
- 21 I live seven minutes away. My
- 22 mother just moved two minutes away actually.
- 23 The community wants this. We've always driven
- 24 past it ever since the last project died and
- 25 it's sad. You can't even look at the parking

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- lot. The community is in support. So we want
- you to go forward today. We do think there
- 4 has to be a really important public
- 5 transportation component. What we are hearing
- 6 sounds in the right direction. We want to
- 7 really hear the plans. The linkages. How is
- 8 it going to work? What makes sense? And
- 9 we're going to tinker in the future as find
- 10 changes that need to happen.
- I love the concept of the CBA
- 12 board. I think this is how we find
- innovation. And the concept about housing,
- 14 which I've never personally thought about, my
- organization, about this cohousing for young
- people is really interesting.
- We also want to look at other
- 18 things. Like for us we are a working on
- 19 worker ownership. Converting existing
- 20 businesses on Long Island into worker owned
- 21 businesses. Forty-seven percent of small
- 22 businesses on Long Island are closing in the
- 23 next ten years. Let's use the Hub as an
- opportunity to fix many problems. Let's lift
- 25 many boats with this. We say go forward but

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 keep the community involved and let's do it
- 3 this time.
- 4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 5 Ms. Tyson. Margo Cargill, Uniondale Chamber
- 6 of Commerce. Devera Lynn from United Way.
- 7 MS. LYNN: Good evening. My name
- 8 is Devera Lynn. I'm here on behalf of Theresa
- 9 Agnonte, president and CEO of United Way of
- 10 Long Island. United Way of Long Island is a
- 11 not-for-profit Long Island focused
- organization. With that said, the projects
- and special events that we partner on with BSE
- 14 has been very much in line with our mission.
- 15 As well as critical to the impact that it
- 16 makes on our neighbors and communities.
- BSE gave United Way and our veteran
- partners a very, very warm welcome when
- inviting over 100 veterans and their families
- 20 to the open house of the Nassau Veterans
- 21 Memorial Coliseum. This special treatment
- they received that was something that many of
- the veterans spoke about, spoke highly of, and
- especially with the keeping of veterans front
- 25 and center in the namesake.

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2	BSE also recently invited United
3	Way to host a special evening, Mission United
4	Night, during a Nets game that focused on our
5	heroes. It also gave us the platform to
6	recognize corporations, labor unions and
7	individuals in the community who are leading
8	supporters of the program that help the men
9	and women who have served our country.
10	On another occasion we were offered
11	an opportunity to raise awareness in the venue
12	about Project Warmth. This is a United Way's
13	emergency fuel fund, which is so critical to
14	our residents, especially at this time of the
15	year. With the growth of the Hub we would
16	certainly see even more awareness raising
17	opportunities.
18	Regarding education, BSE has
19	definitely made a tremendous impact on United
20	Way Stuff of Us Program. For ten years this
21	program has been providing children with much
22	needed school supplies as they enter the new
23	school year.
24	What has changed dramatically over
25	the past two years since we partnered with BSE

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 is our footprint has grown exponentially,
- 3 especially in Nassau County. This has given
- 4 us much broader stroke to program, especially
- 5 in Nassau County. What they did is it gave us
- 6 an opportunity to arrange site drops
- 7 throughout the county bringing inclusion to
- 8 many corporations, small businesses, libraries
- 9 and community centers. Ultimately five new
- 10 school districts received thousands of school
- 11 supplies due to this incredible undertaking.
- 12 Lastly, several of United Way's
- 13 Youth Built Students they're 18 to 24 years
- 14 old seeking new career paths and how to really
- get over challenges they've had. They visited
- 16 the venues to discuss careers. This
- interaction is truly an exclusive hands on
- 18 education for the students. They learned
- 19 about all of the aspects of what goes on
- 20 behind the scenes of the venue. And there are
- 21 many pathways that can take them to a career
- 22 with BSE or labor unions connected with the
- 23 organization.
- We also have another program that's
- 25 billed and both of these opportunities for

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 youth and veterans would give them an
- 3 incredible and superior opportunities in their
- 4 career paths. We continue to look forward to
- 5 growing our partnership. Thank you.
- 6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
- 7 you. Michael Raniere on behalf of the
- 8 Uniondale Union Free School District.
- 9 MR. RANIERE: Good evening. My
- 10 name is Michael Raniere from the law firm
- 11 Ingerman and Smith. We serve as counsel to
- 12 the Uniondale School Union Free School
- 13 District in which the Nassau Hub is located.
- 14 Our client has asked me to be here to make
- 15 some very brief comments.
- 16 The school district has raised some
- concerns about the project and these concerns
- are articulated in the rider to the county
- 19 executive and to the minority leader. The
- 20 concerns related to traffic, enrollment,
- 21 PILOTs, all of which have been raised by
- 22 members of the legislature today. The school
- 23 district to date has already been engaged in
- discussion with the developers to alleviate
- 25 these concerns. The district appreciates Mr.

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 Rechler's statements regarding the look-back
- 3 with regard to the number of students and the
- 4 ability to make the district whole for any
- 5 additional students. As well as the ability
- 6 to work together to develop certain
- 7 internships for students.
- 8 The school district would seek to
- 9 continue to be part of those conversations
- 10 regarding any community benefits and also with
- 11 regard to any PILOTs being sought by the
- developer with regard to this project.
- The school district wishes to
- 14 maintain a positive relationship in the event
- that the legislature approves this project and
- wishes to continue any meaningful
- conversations we can have with the developer.
- 18 Thank you.
- 19 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.
- 20 John Burke, Jr.
- MR. BURKE: My name is John
- 22 Burke. I'm the general counsel at the Dedario
- and Company, which is one of the largest
- 24 private employers here on Long Island. I'm
- 25 here today to express the Dedario's support

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 for the passage of the first phase of this
- 3 development. In keeping with the spirit I
- 4 have remarks for this legislature. I will try
- 5 to be shorter than I originally intended. I
- 6 just want to let the legislature know about
- one experience that we've undergone that will
- 8 hopefully impact your consideration of this
- 9 measure.
- 10 Several years ago Dedario
- determined that we needed to hire additional
- executives as well as creative and marketing
- personnel to enable our company to further
- 14 compete and grow in an evolving marketplace.
- 15 However, recruiting individuals to come to
- 16 Long Island was a challenge. On occasion, but
- certainly more often than we would like to
- hear, some candidates, who either declined
- interview requests or job offers, cited the
- 20 absence of the amenities laid out in this
- 21 proposal as reasons why they didn't want to
- 22 relocate here.
- Eventually, after hearing the
- 24 messages shared by these candidates, we
- decided to open a creative office in

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 Brooklyn. Dedario has spent hundreds of
- 3 thousands of dollars on the build out of this
- 4 space and the payment of rent for this
- 5 Brooklyn office. At this time we can only
- 6 wonder how this money could have been invested
- 7 if we didn't have to establish an office in
- 8 Brooklyn to attract young professionals who
- 9 want to live and work in an area with access
- 10 to entertainment, restaurants and retail all
- 11 within walking distance of one another.
- 12 Simply stated, we want to let this
- body know that the absence of 21st Century
- 14 communities here on Long Island does serve as
- an obstacle to recruiting individuals to work
- 16 here. We respect this body's role in
- oversight and due diligence of what's going
- on, as well as that in the Town of Hempstead.
- But I just would like to share a
- 20 quote from Benjamin Franklin which says,
- 21 Without continual growth and progress words
- 22 such as improvement, achievement and success
- 23 have no meaning.
- 24 If our region is to grow, progress
- and achieve or reach its full potential,

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 proposals such as this need to be considered
- and embraced by both the public and private
- 4 sector. With that, we would just urge this
- 5 body to approve the proposed amendment. I
- 6 thank you for your time and wish you all a
- 7 happy holiday.
- 8 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
- 9 much sir. Andrew Parton. How about Robert
- 10 Albat. John Culbertson.
- MR. CULBERTSON: Good evening.
- 12 It's been a long time. I appreciate your
- 13 stamina. But in honor of Kevin and his quick
- one minute I'm going to read this piece I put
- 15 together. My name is John Culbertson. My
- 16 company is I Plan Access. It's a Long Island
- technology consultant company currently
- working with Intel. It's a hi-tech company
- 19 located in the center of Excellence Wireless
- and Information Technology located in Stony
- 21 Brook's Technology Park. I'm also a founding
- 22 board member of the Long Island Software and
- 23 Technology Network. Otherwise known as
- 24 LISTNET.
- 25 As a Long Island businessman, I

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- 2 realize a need for our county to continue to
- 3 modernize or be passed by other communities
- 4 that have a greater vision to do so. The
- Nassau Hub, with the leadership of RXR Realty,
- 6 deserves our support in moving their proposed
- 7 Nassau Hub development project. They
- 8 demonstrated their value just today in
- 9 Newsday's announcement that Northwell Health
- will be an anchor tenant in the Hub.
- 11 Over the years I have watched RXR,
- whether it be Reckson or RXR Realty, shape the
- development of the business community. The
- 14 Route 110 corridor benefitted from their
- insight and vision in the modernization of the
- 16 telecom space by active participation in fiber
- optic delivery networks. These networks,
- originally supplying broadband services into
- 19 the Reckson facilities, had the multiplier
- 20 effect of creating fiber optic networks for
- 21 the whole 110 corridor community. I know
- because I represented two of those carriers.
- The future is smart growth, smart
- towns and smart streets. I'm confident that a
- Nassau County Hub leadership team will create

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 new jobs and bring new technology to the
- 3 surrounding community as they did in the past
- 4 and retained the young professionals and
- families so critical to Long Island's growth
- 6 and its ability to remain economically
- 7 competitive. Once again I really do support
- 8 the project and its total team.
- 9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
- 10 you. John Gerard Short.
- MR. SHORT: Good evening. John
- 12 Short lifetime resident of Nassau County. I
- own a construction management firm. I started
- 14 with Northwell Health when they were North
- 15 Shore University Hospital. One hospital.
- 16 They are a first class act, as is Scott and
- 17 his team. I'm very impressed with what I
- 18 heard today. The last time I came to a
- 19 legislative meeting it was all gray hair and
- 20 no women and I love the fresh blood. But
- where's the young whippersnapper from Harvard
- over there? I mean, he's the one that should
- 23 be out here. You guys should be taking a nap,
- 24 right?
- The county is in great shape and

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 it's headed in the right direction. It's
- 3 awesome. I'm really proud of that. My father
- 4 would be proud because he was involved in
- 5 government when he used to bring me to these
- 6 meetings. I was just want to do some numbers,
- 7 right.
- 8 The state is kicking in right now
- 9 \$125 million, right? And probably more by the
- 10 time Northwell is done with that. But where
- is the state to correct our situation with the
- 12 plume? We all live here. I have a foundation
- called Cure Mommy's Breast Cancer. Northwell
- 14 has made me a wealthy man and I will get a
- piece of this project without a doubt.
- I have a foundation. My wife was
- diagnosed with breast cancer in 1997 at the
- 18 age of 33 years old. I was in the Bethpage
- 19 Water District. Now I moved to South
- 20 Farmingdale Water District. My wife died in
- 21 2003 at the age of 38. I had two little
- 22 babies. My daughter Nicole is 25 and just had
- 23 both breasts removed. Breast cancer. I have
- 24 a foundation that I have given over a million
- dollars to patients and victims. It's called

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 Cure Mommy's Breast Cancer. CUREMOMMY dot
- 3 orq.
- 4 I have to stop granting money
- 5 because I've changed direction now. I'm
- 6 funding a lawsuit against the state, Grumman,
- 7 everybody involved over there. Last night I
- 8 met with a 20 year old kid from Bethpage and I
- 9 made the decision to come here today.
- 10 Although it may be a conflict of interest with
- 11 work it doesn't matter to me.
- This is little sheet of paper. I
- have been researching that plume for 20 and a
- 14 half years. Since 1997 when my wife was
- 15 diagnosed. She died on my chest 1:27 in the
- 16 morning. Last thing she said to me was I love
- 17 you. Last thing before that was "It's the
- 18 water Johnny."
- Just recently came out, just
- 20 recently, radium. We all know what radium is,
- 21 right? Radioactive. Found in high levels
- 22 right underneath Grumman's property. Radon
- was found in the closets of Bethpage schools.
- 24 Radon is the gas that comes when radium breaks
- 25 down. It's odorless and colorless. The

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 second leading cause of lung cancer in the
- 3 United States.
- 4 Just recently they found 1.4
- 5 dioxins. New chemical. Known as a likely
- 6 human carcinogen. The EPA has found levels 25
- 7 times greater than the health advisory limit.
- 8 What else is under the water? Ten years ago
- 9 it was TCE. That was the most dangerous thing
- 10 that they found. You guys got to do
- 11 something. You're elected officials. Go
- 12 after them or help me go after them. Because
- 13 I'm not going to tolerate it. I'll spend
- 14 every penny that I have now and I need your
- 15 help. Thank you.
- 16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 17 Mr. Short. Naveen Shah. There's also David
- 18 Fincannon. I don't know if both of you want
- 19 to come up.
- MR. SHAH: I will let David speak
- 21 first and then I will take it over.
- MR. FINCANNON: Good evening.
- 23 David Fincannon. Two weeks ago we closed on
- the Marriott Uniondale hotel. We are the new
- owners and we are excited to be part of the

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- 2 project. Over our last four to six months we
- 3 were really excited to read about the Hub and
- 4 today we see it coming to evolution and we
- 5 would like to be part of that project and help
- 6 with the creative.
- 7 But I wanted to share with you a
- 8 couple of data points about hotel development,
- 9 and we've got some really great plans to
- 10 improve the Marriott. Because over the years,
- 11 as all of you know, it struggled with its
- identity and with the surrounding property.
- So the Marriott today, the last two
- 14 years, we have about 75,000 vacant rooms. So
- as you develop the project and you're talking
- 16 about other hotels we want to be a part of
- that dialogue and make sure we have enough
- demand so this hotel can be successful.
- 19 Over the two years, three hotels
- 20 have been developed in the marketplace that we
- 21 compete against. All good. We love the
- 22 competitive environment. But as you're
- 23 planning and looking through the project just
- involve us. We have great plans and Mr. Shah
- will talk about some of the things we will

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- work for.
- I will be the asset manager if you
- 4 will. Marriott manages it. But we're going
- 5 to be guys developing the creative part and
- 6 moving this project forward. What we saw
- 7 today we're really excited about it. We are
- 8 supportive of the project. And we hope good
- 9 things happen from it as the new owners. Two
- weeks old we don't know a lot yet but we're
- 11 learning.
- One last comment. I'm proud to be
- a US Army veteran. I'm glad that the Coliseum
- 14 is part of the veterans. We defended this
- 15 country. That's all I'm going to say.
- 16 MR. SHAH: I'm Naveen Shah. I'm
- the CEO and president of Royal Blue
- 18 Hospitality which owns Marriott Uniondale. I
- 19 have been your tenant, I've been tenant of
- Nassau County and I have been tenant of Scott
- 21 Rechler for last ten years. And what
- 22 remarkable job Mr. Rechler and RXR does it
- 23 I've yet to find it on Long Island. So I
- 24 appreciate their quality, their workmanship
- and what they do for the community and the

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 society.
- 3 Having said that, while I'm fully
- 4 supportive of Hub renovation, of the new Hub
- 5 creating, but we certainly do not want to be
- 6 creating a competition. I think the
- 7 legislature has to consider that there is a
- 8 Roosevelt Field, there's a Nassau college,
- 9 there's Marriott hotel. There are enough
- 10 recreation activities are in the area. So how
- do we bring innovation? How do we bring
- 12 technology? How do we keep and retain the
- jobs of Long Islanders in Long Island is all I
- 14 think we need to consider. Rather than 40
- 15 percent of the Long Island works in New York
- 16 City and create value for New York City and
- 17 Oueens. Why can't we create this land as a
- land of opportunity for the people as citizens
- 19 living in Long Island so that they work and
- 20 create value for Long Island. That is all I
- 21 would like to see.
- 22 Creating competition is not the way
- 23 to create a product. Complementing the
- 24 product is the way to go and that is what I
- would like to share with you and Scott. And

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- 2 Scott has already offered to meet with him and
- 3 I would be happy to meet with him and discuss
- 4 any creative ideas. Thank you.
- 5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 6 Mr. Shah. Next speaker is Shaker Nelanuthala.
- 7 MR. NELANUTHALA: How are you?
- 8 Presiding Officer Nicolello, Minority Leader
- 9 Kevan Abrahams.
- 10 My name is Shaker Nelanuthala. I'm
- 11 a resident of Glen Cove. Actually Delia
- 12 DeRiggi-Whitton is our legislator and I'm
- really proud of the kind of job she is doing
- 14 for Glen Cove as a legislator for the county.
- 15 I'm in support of this project.
- 16 Again, my concern always is like generation of
- new kids what they are doing. My oldest son
- 18 after graduating from Stony Brook University
- 19 couldn't find anything here and moved to
- 20 Michigan. My youngest son this year could not
- 21 find anything after graduating from SUNY Old
- Westbury, a computer science graduate, and
- 23 moved to New Jersey. We got to stop this
- 24 bleeding. We can't have kids moving out.
- Otherwise you will end up being a society of

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 AARP and nothing else.
- On a different note, as it comes to
- 4 the development of the Hub, I would like to
- 5 say all plans are good. Now I want to address
- 6 trying to build a technology park. Why can't
- 7 that be part of the plan? Like, for example,
- 8 imagine if you could bring a Facebook or a
- 9 Google onto the island building really
- 10 something good here. Now that we have Amazon
- in Long Island City there's so many ancillary
- 12 companies that will want to move to this
- region to work with Amazon and they would need
- 14 a space. I would say ideally this would be a
- 15 place if you can create a technology park that
- would actually solve some of the problems.
- And again, housing is the issue.
- 18 We always talk about for the millenials. As
- 19 Josh clearly mentioned, the micro housing
- 20 concept, micro housing project concept, would
- 21 definitely work.
- 22 Again, I'm recommending, suggesting
- 23 that we look at technology park instead of
- building hotels because we have enough hotels
- there. In that space if you can do something

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- else that would be of value. Thank you very
- 3 much.
- 4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 5 sir. Charlene Thompson, Village of Hempstead
- 6 Community Development Needs.
- 7 MS. THOMPSON: Good evening. I'm
- 8 Charlene Thompson. I'm commissioner of
- 9 Community Development for the incorporated
- 10 Village of Hempstead. And I would also like
- 11 to -- Jeannine Maynard of the Uniondale
- 12 Community Land Trust had to leave. So I'm
- going to take a moment to speak on behalf of
- 14 her.
- 15 I'm actually a little bit
- 16 conflicted this evening because I serve on the
- board of directors of the Uniondale Community
- 18 Land Trust. We are delighted and excited to
- 19 have this project come to fruition and we look
- 20 forward to working with you very closely as a
- 21 community stakeholder to make sure that we can
- 22 be an active partner in shaping in the
- 23 community benefits agreement and helping move
- this project forward.
- 25 So now I'm going to shift my hat

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- 2 over to the Village of Hempstead as
- 3 commissioner of community development. As
- 4 some of you may or may not know, Mr. Rechler
- 5 is part of a master development team for the
- 6 revitalization of the Incorporated Village of
- 7 Hempstead. So I have concerns. I have
- 8 concerns that you've decided to shift your
- 9 focus and that will be to the detriment of the
- 10 Village of Hempstead. I want to offer on
- 11 behalf of myself and Mayor Ryan open
- 12 conversation to get us back to the table to
- make sure we move those Hempstead projects
- 14 forward. I have been working very closely
- with Sean McClean and Seth Pinsky as well to
- 16 get some of the underlying infrastructures
- issues resolved. I'm happy to say we are
- 18 moving forward progressively on that. And we
- want to make sure we get some of those other
- development projects back on line. We need to
- 21 work with you very closely to make sure that
- 22 this revitalization is holistic and none of
- our communities are let behind in the
- 24 process.
- 25 As we know, the Village of

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 Hempstead historically has been a hub. All
- 3 major roads go through the Village of
- 4 Hempstead. We have a terminal of the Long
- 5 Island Railroad in the Hempstead terminal. We
- 6 have the Rosa Parks Intertransit Center where
- 7 19 bus routes terminate in the village. We
- 8 have a direct line running from the Hub. And
- 9 somebody mentioned the South Shore. We have
- 10 lines running from Freeport coming into
- 11 Hempstead. We want to make sure that they
- 12 stay a vital part of this conversation and as
- they shape the plans going forward we want to
- 14 offer our support and our active involvement
- and engagement in making sure it's a holistic
- and regional approach to the process that none
- of our communities are left behind. Thank
- 18 you.
- 19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 20 Ms. Thompson. Heidi Sanft.
- 21 MS. SANFT: My name is Heidi
- 22 Sanft. I'm the first vice president of the
- 23 Nostrand Garden Civic Association in
- Uniondale. I'm also a member of GUAAC, which
- 25 stands for the Greater Uniondale Area Action

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 Coalition.
- Good evening once again. Thanks to
- 4 all for staying this late. I'm losing my
- 5 voice even though I just started speaking.
- In an article in October 17th's
- 7 Newsday titled, quote, Optimistic That Hub
- 8 Will Happen, unquote. Mr. Rechler said,
- 9 quote, We are creating a village within a
- downtown. Uniondale is currently known as,
- 11 quote, a global village. This is clearly
- 12 evidenced by signage throughout the
- 13 community.
- 14 The 98 page Long Island index
- report calls the Nassau Hub, quote, the Nassau
- 16 Hub innovation district. Why not collaborate
- with the leaders of Uniondale to make all of
- 18 Uniondale an innovation district? Why not
- 19 create a bridge into downtown Uniondale?
- 20 Uniondale Avenue is in fact the Gateway to the
- 21 Nassau Hub. Include your neighbors by making
- 22 everyone in Uniondale part of your vision,
- 23 Mr. Rechler. Invite us to be part of your
- 24 plan. Be proud of the name of the town where
- you are going to be building. The name of

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- that town, make no mistake, is Uniondale.
- 3 Starting now, we ask you to make a
- 4 statement that downtown Uniondale is part of
- 5 the Nassau Hub innovation district. You have
- 6 nothing to fear and everything to gain by
- 7 doing the right thing.
- Based on your agreeing with the
- 9 above suggestions, I support the development
- of the Hub. I know you are going to do a
- 11 great job. I read all about you. I know
- where your parents are from. I know your
- 13 background. I know where you were born. I
- 14 know your drive. I know that you are really
- smart and will do the right thing. Thank
- 16 you.
- 17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
- 18 you. Pearl Jacobs, Nostrand Garden Civic
- 19 Association.
- MS. JACOBS: Good evening. Pearl
- Jacobs, president of the Nostrand Garden Civic
- 22 Association and member of the Greater
- 23 Uniondale Area Action Coalition.
- Yesterday's article Northwell
- 25 Health to become anchor tenant for Nassau Hub

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 no reference or mention was made of
- 3 Uniondale. The article stated that the
- 4 location of the Hub is in the proximity of
- 5 Hempstead Turnpike, Earle Ovington Boulevard
- 6 and the Meadowbrook Parkway.
- 7 As president of the Nostrand Garden
- 8 Civic Association and member of the Greater
- 9 Uniondale Area Action Coalition, our
- 10 collective community has led an active
- 11 campaign to retract any article or media
- 12 release that states that the Nassau Hub is
- 13 located at East Garden City, a fictitious
- 14 entity. Although yesterday's article did not
- mention the fictitious entity of East Garden
- 16 City, it did not mention Uniondale either.
- 17 This exclusion demonstrates a lack of
- 18 recognition towards Uniondale as the host
- 19 community.
- In years past the Nassau Veterans
- 21 Coliseum has always been recognized as being
- located in Uniondale. Only in recent years
- with the growing interest in the development
- of this last open piece of open space in the
- Nassau County has this area taken on the

- 1 Full Leg 11-27-18
- 2 fictitious entity of East Garden city.
- I, as well as many of the Uniondale
- 4 residents, are excited about this
- 5 transformation of the Hub and we support this
- 6 proposed development. The Uniondale community
- 7 respectfully requests the respect that it is
- 8 due by being recognized as the host
- 9 community. Everyone should know that the
- 10 Nassau Hub is located in Uniondale. Exclusion
- is passe. It's 2018. The word is now
- 12 inclusion.
- Additionally, it is the hope that a
- 14 fair and equitable CBA be established,
- 15 especially in regards to the host community.
- 16 The host community that assumes the majority
- of the burdens on its roads, sewers, water and
- 18 taxes. Thank you very much.
- 19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 20 Pearl. Martha Ann Brady.
- MS. BRADY: My name is Martha Ann
- 22 Brady, and I'm going to go back in history. I
- lived in Uniondale many years and I will tell
- you exactly how many later. We have a
- 25 document -- I am a member of GUAAC, Uniondale

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- 2 Community of Counsel of which I'm treasurer,
- 3 Uniondale Community Land Trust, of which I am
- 4 a board member, and other organizations in
- 5 Uniondale.
- 6 In 1917 New York State proclaimed
- 7 that Mitchel Field, with one L, named for
- 8 former mayor of New York City John Mitchel,
- 9 not Billy Mitchel, was all Uniondale.
- 10 Uniondale made the mistake when the active
- 11 Army Air Corp. base was closed in 1961 of
- 12 permitting certain entities to put Garden
- 13 City. Namely the carousel, the aviation
- 14 museum, the fire department museum, Nassau
- 15 Community College. They are all technically
- 16 Uniondale, and I would like to see that every
- entity business that opens at the Hub be
- 18 labeled Uniondale. The post office may ask
- 19 because of the size of the businesses that
- 20 they have a specific post office box, 115
- 21 whatever, beyond 53 or under 53, to expedite
- 22 the mail.
- 23 I worked in Manhattan for many
- years, 17 years, for the world's largest
- 25 market research corporation. And how you

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- 2 market stuff has an impact. And it is the
- 3 Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum and
- 4 everybody who leaves out the veterans memorial
- 5 and goes with the NYCB Live garbage is giving
- 6 the veterans a kick in the pants. A slap in
- 7 the face. Uniondale has a memorial to those
- 8 from Uniondale who died. David Nava, Walter
- 9 Owens, Jr. I knew those people. I am the
- 10 niece of an aunt and uncle who served during
- 11 World War II.
- 12 I worked in EAB before it was
- 13 Reckson Plaza. I worked there for 17 years.
- 14 My employer helped me go to Hofstra University
- 15 to graduate. I have lived in Uniondale.
- 16 Uniondale was built up post World War II of
- veterans who were able to afford housing. I
- have lived in my house for 42 years. I have
- 19 lived in Uniondale for 71 years. And
- 20 Uniondale is very close to my heart.
- In 1853 I believe it is, New York
- 22 Times put an article in the paper that Turtle
- Hook, the name of the town at that time, was
- being changed to Union Dale. It was two words
- 25 at that part. Why? Because they were in

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- 2 commitment to the Union of United States of
- 3 America.
- 4 Let's not history hurt us again by
- 5 dropping the big part of the Nassau Veterans
- 6 Memorial Coliseum. If you say Coliseum okay.
- 7 But when you put Nassau in there you got to
- 8 say veterans memorial. Newsday and
- 9 Cablevision are two big offenders. Nassau
- 10 County has got to get after them.
- I'm hoping, I like the sound of the
- 12 project. I met with Mr. Rechler's group over
- 13 at RXR last week and perhaps this next
- 14 generation part that you're looking for maybe
- 15 I'll switch residences from my street to your
- 16 street in Uniondale. Absolutely. Thank you.
- 17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 18 Ms. Brady. Paul E. Gibson, Uniondale
- 19 Community Land Trust. David Kilmnick.
- MS. SOLOMAN: Jennifer Soloman
- 21 from Plainview.
- MS. SOLOMAN: Hello. My name is
- 23 Jennifer Soloman. I'm a lifelong Long
- Islander and I also belong to the ever evasive
- and much talked about generation of

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- 2 millenials.
- I have my own small business and my
- 4 husband, a transplant from Poughkeepsie, who
- is an army vet and a Columbia MBA, commutes to
- 6 his job at a tech startup in New York City
- 7 daily. We have a ton of student debt, a
- 8 mortgage, two small daughters who my parents
- 9 watch twice a week at their home in
- 10 Plainview.
- Some of this information about my
- 12 personal background my feel unnecessary but a
- 13 lot of the discussion today has been about
- 14 attracting and retaining young families, new
- talent and growing professionals. And that's
- 16 who we are. Truth is we talk daily about
- 17 leaving Long Island.
- 18 The Nassau Hub offers solutions to
- 19 several of our complaints and I believe those
- of our peers. First, it attracts more young
- 21 people like us and offers new opportunities
- 22 for us to build a community. It offers
- 23 affordable housing options. And while they
- 24 may not be right for me personally, they would
- enable people like my younger brother to come

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- 2 back to Long Island.
- It gives us new entertainment and
- 4 retail opportunities next to the Coliseum. So
- 5 that going to Disney on Ice for the 100th time
- 6 might feel a bit more suited to the whole
- 7 family. And if it attracts new young people
- 8 and fresh talent it's reasonable to believe
- 9 that innovative 21st Century companies will
- 10 come to Long Island, reinvigorating the
- economy and creating new opportunities for my
- 12 husband to work locally and for my family to
- 13 thrive.
- 14 Outside of Long Island everywhere
- we want to live is attached to a walkable
- 16 downtown. Many here have spoken about what
- 17 they think millenials want. But I am a
- millenial and I'm telling you that these types
- of social communities are very attractive to
- 20 us.
- The debates around the Hub have
- 22 been going on for most of my life. I grew up
- 23 at events at the Coliseum, including the first
- 24 concert I ever went to. It doesn't take much
- to see the potential of this site for the

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- 2 greater Long Island community. A community
- 3 that I love. I urge you to approve the
- 4 amendment and give this proposal a chance.
- 5 This is truly an opportunity to reimagine Long
- 6 Island and give mine and future generations a
- 7 chance to write our own stories here. Thank
- 8 you.
- 9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 10 Ms. Soloman. Jack McCloy.
- MR. MCCLOY: Chairman Nicolello,
- members of the legislature. Jack McCloy,
- resident of Baldwin and lifelong Long Island
- 14 resident.
- 15 First of all, I would like to say
- 16 that I'm so happy to see that things are
- moving forward for the development of the Hub
- 18 area. I want to say that I think that BSE and
- 19 RXR are ideally qualified to handle this. And
- 20 I also want to say that I'm very happy that
- 21 Scott mentioned earlier that his presentation
- is one that is subject to be modified based
- upon needs, suggestions, comments.
- What I would like to say is I think
- that Ms. Bynoe's recommendation that an

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- 2 attraction needs to be built into the Hub more
- 3 so than what has been described so far. I
- 4 think Northwell, I think it was mentioned as
- 5 the anchor tenant, is not a good anchor tenant
- for the Hub. The reason for that is anybody
- 7 working at Northwell or seeking the services
- 8 of Northwell is not likely to be going to the
- 9 Hub to take care of -- to explore the other
- options that would be there. I think you're
- 11 right on Ms. Bynoe about saying that needs to
- 12 be looked at a little further.
- I also wanted to say that
- 14 Legislator Gaylor's mention about a light rail
- 15 system would be ideal. Especially if there
- 16 are going to be residences included there
- where mini buses will be picking up students
- 18 going back and forth to school. I think the
- 19 area will be congested. I think a light rail
- 20 system would help alleviate that. I don't
- 21 know if any of you have ever been to Detroit.
- 22 They have a system there called the Ring and
- 23 it circles the whole redevelopment area in
- Detroit what has been revitalized just by
- 25 having that light rail system.

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- 2 Also in Montreal they have a rail
- 3 system that is mostly automated, where you
- 4 don't have to have people operating the units
- 5 and they actually run on tires in a trough.
- 6 It's not as noisy. It's quiet. It's
- 7 comfortable. And I think that maybe something
- 8 like that circling the Hub, bringing people to
- 9 different spots along the route might be
- 10 something that could be worked in.
- I do want to also say that the
- thought of incorporating a destination other
- than Northwell, because we have Northwell, we
- 14 have Sloan Kettering, nobody is going to be
- 15 going to the Hub seeking services from those
- 16 institutions or if working at those
- institutions are going to be patronizing the
- other aspects of the Hub. I would like to see
- if we can revisit that aspect and maybe modify
- it to be a little bit more of an attraction.
- 21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 22 Mr. McCloy. Meta Mereday. Ms. Mereday, I
- didn't see your note that you needed to speak
- 24 earlier. I would have pulled your slip
- 25 earlier. Sorry.

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- 2 MR. MEREDAY: I'm a regular. We
- 3 will hear about that later. Meta J. Mereday,
- 4 Baldwin resident.
- I am equally excited but I guess as
- 6 was stated earlier I'm divided but excited
- 7 with regard to this project. I do appreciate
- 8 the sentiments of the resident who spoke about
- 9 this being the Nassau County Veterans Memorial
- 10 Coliseum. I concur particularly for those who
- 11 know me that most of the time when I'm
- 12 speaking I am speaking in reference to our
- veterans. So I think that is very key that we
- 14 keep that in the loop considering if we
- combine the 85,000 Nassau County veterans,
- 16 despite Newsday kind of shortlisting it at
- 17 50,000, we have 85,000 veterans in Nassau
- 18 County and 100,000 in Suffolk County,
- 19 according to the US census Long Island is
- second only to San Diego in the percentage of
- veterans in its population.
- So I am concerned about what is
- 23 going to be in place for our veterans. Not
- just as location to go on specific holidays
- but for jobs, for contracting, for things of

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- 2 that nature. I'm hoping that we can move
- 3 forward. I've been very disappointed but I
- 4 have to remain hopeful considering I was
- 5 really the genesis in terms of then legislator
- 6 now County Executive Curran's veteran owned
- 7 business act that was implemented in 2016.
- 8 I've yet to see any benchmarks in the county.
- 9 I'm hoping that the Hub project will become
- the actual benchmark and the leading figure
- 11 with regard to that as well.
- 12 If we look at the fact that Long
- 13 Island has 80 percent homeownership, while I
- 14 appreciate Legislator Lafazan's very emotional
- 15 pitch for millenial housing, let's not forget
- 16 the baby boomers. We are what is considered
- the sandwich generation. We are in essence
- 18 supporting the efforts of many of the
- millenials as well as supporting the efforts
- of our World War II generation and that really
- is the crux of Long Island.
- I'm hoping that we can look at more
- 23 data as opposed to, you know, this
- demonstrative sort of speak about what you
- intend to do. Let's back this up with some

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- 2 numbers so we can talk about some true
- 3 benchmarks and look at some data and some
- 4 specifics to what the development can look
- 5 like.
- 6 In addition to be a 9-11 first
- 7 responder, I was also involved in the
- 8 development and the inclusion of diverse
- 9 minority women, veteran-owned businesses, in
- 10 the rebuild of lower Manhattan, the air train
- 11 project to JFK. So I don't just come here --
- 12 they may just think I come here for their
- entertainment but I do come for reason and I'm
- 14 hoping that we can work together to move this
- 15 project forward for all of our residents.
- 16 Thank you. I will be back Presiding Officer.
- 17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
- 18 you. That was our last slip. I want to thank
- 19 all the members of the public. Come on up.
- MR. MAYERS: My names is Douglas
- 21 Mayers, the president of the
- 22 Freeport-Roosevelt NAACP and the Long Island
- 23 Caribbean-American Association.
- I want to congratulate these
- 25 builders on this project. My only question

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- 2 here fellows, did any of you consider a
- 3 convention center for this project?
- 4 Convention center is very important in any
- 5 community. In any county. We travel a lot to
- 6 conventions over the years and I must tell you
- 7 a convention center plays a very important
- 8 roll. Last year I was at a convention and
- 9 where the hell it was, I think it was -- any
- 10 way -- Louisiana. I don't know if any of you
- 11 went to Louisiana but Louisiana have a
- 12 fantastic convention center. Every day it is
- used by the car companies, by big companies
- 14 and I think if we only had that here on Long
- 15 Island, part of this project, we could do
- 16 wonders having a convention center on Long
- 17 Island believe you me.
- Every other year we have a luncheon
- 19 here and we can't get space to seat them. A
- 20 thousand members where the NAACP is
- 21 concerned. Crest Hollow tried to put in a
- thousand but no hotel around here on Long
- 23 Island could hold a thousand members. All
- 24 right. So consider that with your building.
- 25 Consider that.

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- When Huntington House was in swing
- 3 Huntington House was the only area that we
- 4 could hold a luncheon for a thousand or more
- 5 people. Don't just build to build. Build to
- 6 accommodate the numbers. All right. I think
- 7 that would be good.
- The housing. The NAACP is glad to
- 9 see somebody talking about affordable
- 10 housing. I will be back at the leg because we
- 11 have some property in Freeport, belongs to the
- 12 county on North Main Street in Freeport, the
- old medical building. I got signs out there
- 14 calling for affordable housing. My legislator
- is here, Ms. Mule is here, and she can tell
- 16 you about me. But we need more housing in
- 17 Nassau County. And I would like to see the
- 18 county do something with that property.
- I understand someone approached the
- 20 county about a funeral home. We don't need
- 21 any more bloody funeral homes. We're not
- 22 dying bloody fast. I said to the mayor they
- 23 he will have to run a tractor over me for them
- to build affordable housing on that property I
- 25 mean a build a funeral home. We need

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- 2 affordable housing.
- I spoke to Kevan about it. We want
- 4 to see some affordable housing on North Main
- 5 Street and Freeport. Not only housing above,
- 6 stores below. Because the town has two pieces
- of property next to it. So the county can ask
- 8 the town for that property to build out. You
- 9 can make a U-shape type building. Seniors and
- 10 young people housing. So, that's on the
- 11 agenda also.
- But congratulation to you guys. I
- will be there because I'm still a young man
- 14 and I'm a union man too and I'm also looking
- 15 for work. Thank you.
- 16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
- 17 Mr. Mayers. Is there anyone else that would
- 18 like to speak? Hearing none, we can conclude
- things by saying obviously you have support
- 20 from the board section of stakeholders of this
- 21 county. You also have been doing your
- 22 homework. Groups that you are meeting with
- which is very positive sign. There is
- demonstrably from this audience tremendous
- excitement to see this property developed. I

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2	think any of us who travel throughout the
3	metropolitan area, actually outside of
4	New York, we've seen these properties that are
5	underused, sometimes industrial, still become
6	destinations and we would be excited to be a
7	part of that process. We look forward to
8	working with you collaboratively and we thank
9	you for the presentation today.
10	(TIME NOTED: 6:20 P.M.)
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2	CERTIFICATION
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4	I, FRANK GRAY, a Notary
5	Public in and for the State of New
6	York, do hereby certify:
7	THAT the foregoing is a true and
8	accurate transcript of my stenographic
9	notes.
10	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
11	hereunto set my hand this 27th day of
12	November 2018
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16	FRANK GRAY
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