

# Kings Park Neighbors Association

Thomas Lyons  
Director of Resource Management  
Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation,  
Empire State Plaza  
Agency 1  
Albany, NY 12238

April 8, 2009

Via US Mail and E Mail

Dear Mr. Lyons,

Please allow this correspondence to serve as a response to the Long Island Regional Planning Council's letter to you dated March 27, 2009.

Simply, the Council's letter is not worth the paper it is written on.

It is obvious that the Planning Council, including each of its members, have no appreciation of the facts surrounding the Nissequogue River State Park. If they had, they would know that the entire property, including the 365 acres they reference, is park. The fact that in the very first paragraph they ask the State to prepare and implement an adaptive reuse and economic redevelopment plan for the site at the earliest possible time, rather than transferring the entirety of the site into parkland reveals their lack of knowledge regarding this issue and therefore any further comment by them on the subject should be disregarded.

Their ignorance of this property goes further and is staggering.

In the first paragraph they also refer to this site as representing a perfect opportunity for a Brownsfield site. If they had been following the plight of this property, they would know that Cherokee/Arker, the last private developers that were interested in this property, applied for Brownsfield funding and were very disappointed in the amount of property that was eligible, a scant amount around the power plant area.

Regarding their comments about available funding, being used for SUNY or the MTA, again they are wrong. The 29 million dollars that Senator John Flanagan appropriated for this property could not and would not be diverted to these areas. The money appropriated for the Park is capital funding, not operational funding.

The Planning Council, in its quest for workforce/next generation housing, as well as other mixed uses, on this property apparently has no idea that what they are really asking for is alienation of parkland. If they would have taken the time to find out any facts regarding this issue, they would never have written such an uninformed letter in which they are asking for something that every elected official in this area has rejected, including County Executive Steve Levy, Congressman Tim Bishop, and all local State and Town representatives.

Not only would the alienation of this property have a devastating effect on our community, including the tax base, but the public policy implications regarding alienation of park would be far reaching and staggering.

The Planning Council, and each of its members, owe an apology not only to the State, for being ignorant of the facts, but the Kings Park Community, for trying to effectuate a change that would set the progress of the ultimate remediation and reuse of this property back 10 years.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Henninger, Esq.  
Kings Park Neighbors Association, President.

Cc: Hon. David A. Paterson, NYS Governor  
Hon. Steve Levy, Suffolk County Executive  
Commissioner Carol Ash, NYSOPRHP  
Mr. Michael White, Executive Director  
Long Island Regional Planning Council