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COMMUNITY HEARING
EQUINOR'S EMPIRE OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT
FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2023
6:00 p.m.

FRANCIS X. HEGARTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA
100 RADCLIFFE ROAD, ISLAND PARK
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BOARD MEMBERS:

MICHAEL MCGINTY, Mayor
MATTHEW GRACI, Deputy Mayor
ROBERT O. TICE, Trustee
BARBARA VOLPE-RIED, Trustee
CLAUDIA ARMENDINGER, Village Clerk
SUSAN BOLAND, Village Attorney



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 MAYOR McGINTY: Good evening.
 3 A couple of housekeeping. Number
 4 one, if you choose to speak, please
 5 attend to it by signing up on the
 6 sign-in sheets against the wall.
 7 There are three methods of egress,
 8 two in the back on either side, and
 9 one on the front.
 10 At this time, I would ask
 11 Congressman D'Esposito to lead us in
 12 the Pledge.
 13 (Whereupon, the Pledge of
 14 Allegiance was recited.)
 15 MAYOR McGINTY: We just
 16 received word that Senator Canzoneri-
 17 Fitzpatrick is on her way, and Eric
 18 Ari Brown is on his way as well.
 19 Let's give them a minute.
 20 From the format, I think we all
 21 know what the -- there is a
 22 stenographic record. The meeting is
 23 being recorded. I believe we are
 24 utilizing Zoom. Are there any other
 25 editorial notes? The PowerPoint

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 indicates the format.
 3 Jane, why don't you move on
 4 with your basic overview and the time
 5 line?
 6 I would like to read to you a
 7 letter that was written by State
 8 Senator Kaminsky -- then State
 9 Senator Kaminsky -- and myself.
 10 "We are writing to ask that you
 11 reconsider stationing the operations
 12 and maintenance base, as well as the
 13 grid interconnection, including the
 14 onshore substation, for the
 15 816-megawatt Empire Wind Project at
 16 Con Edison's Gowanus Substation, and
 17 instead site it at the E.F. Barrett
 18 Generation Station in Island Park.
 19 Located directly north of the
 20 prospective wind farm, the Barrett
 21 Power Plant in Nassau County would
 22 strategically place your
 23 interconnection point midway between
 24 Long Island and New York City,
 25 thereby generating the potential to

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 provide both regions with clean
 3 energy and green jobs.
 4 "The Barrett Power Plant, which
 5 is situated in the heart of the
 6 Barnum Channel off the Atlantic
 7 Ocean, is located just miles from New
 8 York City and has been underutilized
 9 for far too long. It currently hosts
 10 a fossil fuel generating plant in a
 11 127-acre facility, and is a perfect
 12 candidate for transition as part of
 13 the state's new green economy and to
 14 help meet our clean energy goals.
 15 Nassau County is home to a skilled
 16 workforce, and the South Shore is
 17 primed to be a center of clean energy
 18 production, maintenance, and
 19 transmission, and ancillary jobs
 20 attendant to it. Further, the
 21 Barrett Plant is incredibly important
 22 to the local community and school
 23 district, and its resident would
 24 welcome the notion of the plant
 25 having a bright, clean and green

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 future.
 3 "As you embark on this
 4 partnership with our State, we urge
 5 you to consider the Barrett
 6 Generation Station as an integral
 7 component of the project. We would
 8 be happy to help convene a discussion
 9 in furtherance of this goal. Thank
 10 you in advance for your
 11 consideration, and we look forward to
 12 hearing from you."
 13 That's the letter. As you can
 14 see, it deals with great specificity
 15 the E.F. Barrett Plant. You should
 16 also note that the context of the
 17 letter at that time frame, 2019, LIPA
 18 had just won a tax certiorari
 19 settlement against the Island Park
 20 school district, and what would have
 21 occurred -- what is occurring is we
 22 are going from revenue between 15.5
 23 and 16 million dollars to a revenue
 24 anywhere from eight to eight and a
 25 half million dollars. That's a



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 reduction over the seven-year period,
 3 a reduction of greater than
 4 50 percent of tax -- property tax
 5 revenues to the Island Park school
 6 district. That's the context in
 7 which the letter is written. Thank
 8 you.
 9 "Empire Offshore Wind proposes
 10 to construct and operate the Empire
 11 Wind 2 Project as one of two separate
 12 offshore wind projects to be located
 13 within the Bureau of Ocean Energy
 14 Management designated renewable
 15 energy release area."
 16 Rather than read through this,
 17 we all know why we're here tonight.
 18 Congressman, would you like to
 19 say a few words?
 20 CONGRESSMAN D'ESPOSITO: Good
 21 evening, everyone. First and
 22 foremost, I would like to thank the
 23 Mayor and Village Board for putting
 24 this together tonight. I think it's
 25 going to be used both to provide some

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 information and I think for the
 3 community to get a good idea of where
 4 their elected officials stand.
 5 Anybody that's been following
 6 the news or social media I think has
 7 a pretty good understanding of where
 8 I stand and how I feed about this
 9 project. While there are
 10 opportunities -- we are going to be
 11 very honest with everyone, there are
 12 opportunities that could financially
 13 benefit the communities of Island
 14 Park, Long Beach and the barrier
 15 islands. I think that it is crystal
 16 clear that the community has spoken,
 17 and I have always been taught that as
 18 an elected official, you -- it is
 19 public service. You speak for the
 20 people. And I think that everyone is
 21 here tonight on a Friday that could
 22 be doing many other things because we
 23 care about the future of our
 24 community, and I'm going to ask by a
 25 show of hands, is anybody here

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 because they are in favor of this
 3 project? That's what I thought.
 4 I think where we are right now
 5 is the following: I think over the
 6 last six months to a year, many of us
 7 up here have had conversations, and
 8 most recently further conversations
 9 with Equinor. We would all agree
 10 they are terrible neighbors, bad
 11 business, and quite frankly, they are
 12 using both Long Beach and the Village
 13 of Island Park as targets. And as I
 14 mentioned on the floor of the House
 15 of Representatives today, they are
 16 basically trying to be hostage
 17 takers. I think we are all here
 18 tonight because we are not going to
 19 let it happen. I think what we need
 20 to be sure of is that this is a
 21 situation that many people feel is
 22 already done, and it's already passed
 23 and the ship has sailed and there is
 24 no way to bring the ship back to
 25 port. I firmly don't believe that, I

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 believe Equinor is on a strict time
 3 constraint, and they understand that
 4 every day that goes by, they are one
 5 day further from meeting their goal,
 6 and their goal does not involve any
 7 of us in this room. Their goal
 8 involves shareholders and making
 9 money.
 10 Anyone that has followed -- and
 11 I'm sure the Senator and the
 12 Assemblyman will get into it further
 13 when they speak -- anyone who
 14 followed the circus that the state
 15 put on a few weeks ago, there was a
 16 home rule bill that was requested by
 17 the City of Long Beach, and there was
 18 a back-and-forth between the city and
 19 our state representatives. And at
 20 some point, Governor Hochul asked a
 21 state senator from Flatbush, Brooklyn
 22 to carry the legislation as part of a
 23 home rule bill in the State Senate.
 24 I believe there was a companion bill
 25 in the Assembly, also carried by



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 someone from Brooklyn. I know it's
 3 very easy to confuse Kings Pharmacy
 4 and Kings Highway, but I think it's
 5 clear that the purpose of this was to
 6 put forth legislation so that this
 7 could have one step forward. And
 8 there have been conversations back
 9 and forth that the home rule bill
 10 could have been a positive step in
 11 the direction. It gives the City of
 12 Long Beach control. I personally
 13 think at this point, anything we give
 14 to Equinor shouldn't be given. I
 15 think we need to hold our ground, dig
 16 our heels in, and we need to do
 17 everything that we can to stop it.

18 Obviously, like I said, there
 19 are a lot of benefits possible here.
 20 There is a huge tax base that would
 21 be collected, whether it's at the
 22 Pop's location, whether it's in the
 23 City of Long Beach, whether it's for
 24 areas of our streets. But we have to
 25 decide as a community whether that

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 2 outweighs the future.

3 I have been in conversations
 4 with Equinor now for a decent amount
 5 of time and I asked them for specific
 6 information. They have done this in
 7 other communities.

8 "Do you have reports that
 9 outline how this affects home values
 10 in the immediate vicinity of the
 11 substation?"

12 And their answer is, "We're new
 13 at this."

14 I asked them specific
 15 questions, "What happens with the
 16 underground cables? Does that affect
 17 land value? Does that affect people
 18 wanting to move into the community?"

19 "We're from Norway. We're new
 20 at this."

21 None of which is any of our
 22 problem. Some of us here are
 23 business owners. You open up a
 24 business, you do your best to learn
 25 the community. The facts are very

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 clear. Equinor basically wants to
 3 take advantage of us. They
 4 understood from the beginning that
 5 this was an issue where we were
 6 facing problems with LIPA and we were
 7 losing that tax certiorari case, and
 8 there was a giant burden on the backs
 9 of everybody in this room. If we
 10 don't think they are using that
 11 against us, we're crazy. There is no
 12 secret that in the past, Long Beach
 13 has had financial issues. If we
 14 don't think they are using that to
 15 their advantage, we're also crazy.

16 What I do believe -- and I'm
 17 not going to speak much longer,
 18 because I know you are all here to
 19 share your views -- I do believe we
 20 need, if we are going to continue to
 21 move forward and make sure that we
 22 don't want Equinor as part of our
 23 community -- and I say Equinor
 24 specifically because they are the
 25 ones we are dealing with right now,

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 and they are the ones that have been
 3 bad neighbors. They are the ones
 4 that haven't been transparent. They
 5 are the ones that are trying to sell
 6 a \$280 million community benefit to
 7 us that's not truly a community
 8 benefit. The way I look at it, we
 9 need to pay taxes, we need to pay for
 10 easements, we need to pay for
 11 abandoned streets. That's the cost
 12 of doing business. That's not a
 13 community benefit. Would those tax
 14 funds benefit this community? Yes,
 15 but it's not a direct infusion into
 16 our tax base. They have \$15 million
 17 set aside -- seven and a half million
 18 carved out for Island Park -- not
 19 just the Village, Island Park, so
 20 11558 -- and seven and a half million
 21 carved out for the City of Long
 22 Beach. I'm not sure if seven and a
 23 half million dollars is worth the
 24 change in this community for the rest
 25 of all of our lives. I'm pretty sure



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 that's why we are here, because we
 3 don't believe that.
 4 We need to work together. We
 5 need to all be on the same page. We
 6 need to row in the same direction,
 7 and we need to understand that this
 8 is a \$100 billion company. They are
 9 also a company that's 80 percent oil
 10 and gas. They're 20 percent wind.
 11 So they try to sell the renewable
 12 energy story, but they are really an
 13 oil and gas company. What is most
 14 important here for us to be on the
 15 same page and to know that you have
 16 elected officials -- and you will
 17 hear from them -- that are on the
 18 side of the community. We have heard
 19 many different concerns, whether it's
 20 the future of our waterways, if it's
 21 our wildlife, if it's the concerns of
 22 the underground cables, if it's the
 23 concerns of the substation, which we
 24 still don't even know how high it's
 25 going to be, or how many buildings

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 2 are confirmed on the Pop's site, what
 3 is going to be built and what it's
 4 going to look like, if they do build
 5 in Oceanside. Those are all
 6 questions that are left unanswered,
 7 and I will let the Village speak for
 8 themselves.
 9 The Village had a meeting with
 10 Equinor probably two and a half
 11 months ago. They submitted
 12 proposals, talked about different
 13 things in this community just to get
 14 an idea of where Equinor stood, and
 15 have yet to hear back from them.
 16 When the Village reached out to them,
 17 the answer was, "Oh, the person
 18 dealing with that is on vacation."
 19 So I don't think this \$100 billion
 20 company from Norway is really
 21 concerned about Island Park or Long
 22 Beach or the barrier islands.
 23 What I do believe is that while
 24 some people will say this has become
 25 political, it's not political at all.

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 2 This is about protecting the
 3 communities that we live in. The
 4 facts are the facts. The Governor
 5 asked a state senator and state
 6 assemblyperson from Brooklyn to carry
 7 a home rule bill that would affect
 8 these barrier islands. There is
 9 nothing more hypocritical than that.
 10 Somebody from Brooklyn carrying what
 11 is called a home rule bill for the
 12 barrier islands. There is a
 13 direction that the state wants to go
 14 in, and there is a direction that I
 15 believe the administration in this
 16 country want to go. And perhaps in
 17 some parts of this country, that will
 18 work. But I think right now and
 19 right here, we are all in agreement
 20 that it's not going to work here in
 21 Island Park. It's not going to work
 22 on the barrier island.

23 But again, I think we do need
 24 to work together, we need to row in
 25 the same direction. This can't be an

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 issue that just becomes Facebook
 3 fighting back and forth. If we are
 4 going to stick together as a
 5 community, we need to move in the
 6 same direction. Equinor, they are
 7 pros at division and conquering, and
 8 that's exactly what they are trying
 9 to do now. They're trying to divide
 10 the community, they're trying to
 11 divide the municipalities, and
 12 they're trying to conquer. The only
 13 way we're going to stand up to them
 14 is by sticking together as a
 15 community.

16 And for all of you that have
 17 been working so hard, doing your own
 18 research, your own work, working with
 19 different entities to provide the
 20 facts and make sure everyone has an
 21 understanding of what goes on, I
 22 commend all of you. There is a lot
 23 to this. I don't think any of us in
 24 this room thought we were going to be
 25 spending as much time as we are on



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 offshore wind, but we are because it
 3 matters to us.
 4 I'm a firm believer. I was
 5 born and raised here. Although
 6 Equinor thinks we can't survive
 7 without them, I know that there are a
 8 lot of people in here who have called
 9 Island Park or Long Beach home for
 10 just as long as I have. We survived
 11 before they were here, and we will
 12 certainly survive without them. I
 13 will turn this back over.
 14 MAYOR McGINTY: In terms of a
 15 time line, in June of 2022, Empire
 16 Offshore Wind submitted the Article
 17 VII application to the New York State
 18 Public Service Commission, Article
 19 VII is the section New York State
 20 Public Service Law that requires a
 21 full review of the need for an
 22 environmental impact of the siting,
 23 design, construction, and operation
 24 of major transmission facilities in
 25 New York State.

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 In September of 2022, the
 3 Incorporated Village of Island Park
 4 requested party status with the New
 5 York State Public Service Commission.
 6 In October, 2022, the Village
 7 engaged Anthony Panzarino for an
 8 appraisal of Railroad Place.
 9 Currently, there are no discussions
 10 -- let me repeat -- there are no
 11 discussion regarding sale of
 12 Village-owned roadway.
 13 In December of 2022, the
 14 Village retained Justice James
 15 Catterson of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw
 16 Pittman as special counsel in
 17 connection with the Empire Offshore
 18 Wind Project.
 19 In March of 2023, the Village
 20 made the request for intervenor
 21 funding.
 22 In April of 2023, the Village
 23 Board requests Equinor and NYSERDA --
 24 NYSERDA is the New York State
 25 Research and Development Authority --

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 to host a community forum for
 3 residents, with a question and answer
 4 session to address residents'
 5 questions and concerns. The Board
 6 still awaits a response. The Village
 7 Board agrees to meet biweekly with
 8 NYSERDA and Equinor to have an
 9 ongoing dialogue in regard to the
 10 potential offshore wind project.
 11 There has yet to be any
 12 communication. Legislator Ford
 13 requests a pause on the project.
 14 In May of 2023, the
 15 Incorporated Village of Island Park
 16 is notified of nine private
 17 properties within the project.
 18 Empire Wind 2 Project field work,
 19 soil boring sampling and testing is
 20 slated to begin May 8th. Permits for
 21 testing have been rescinded by the
 22 Village.
 23 Parenthetically, when the
 24 permits were requested, they were
 25 requested by a company called Craig

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 Environmental. At no point did this
 3 company indicate they were doing work
 4 for Equinor. At no point did they
 5 say they were doing work for Equinor.
 6 Subsequent to that, soil boring was
 7 conducted on Long Island Railroad
 8 property with no permission or
 9 notification to the Village. Justice
 10 Catterson engaged N&P Engineering and
 11 Land Survey to conduct an
 12 environmental review and study of the
 13 impacts of this project on the
 14 Village.
 15 In June of 2023, the Long
 16 Island Railroad informed Village
 17 officials that the request for
 18 proposals of the reconstruction of
 19 the Long Island Railroad parking
 20 fields were put on hold indefinitely
 21 due to the Equinor project. Third
 22 notice of impending settlement
 23 discussions will commence in August,
 24 2023.
 25 In July of 2023, due to the



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 lack of transparency and
 3 communication, at this point in time,
 4 Mayor McGinty and the entire Board of
 5 trustees are vehemently opposed to
 6 this project.
 7 I don't think I need to review
 8 the committee benefit package with
 9 you. The Congressman detailed it in
 10 great specificity.
 11 Right now, I'm going to ask
 12 Assemblyman Brown.
 13 ASSEMBLYMAN BROWN: Thank you,
 14 Mayor. The Mayor was kind enough to
 15 extend the courtesy to me. I have
 16 Sabbath in about half an hour or so.
 17 Thank you for indulging me.
 18 I'll tell you two quick little
 19 stories, remembrances when I was a
 20 kid. In the early '70s we sat in
 21 school, here in assembly just like
 22 this, and they showed on the
 23 projector, or whatever it was, by the
 24 year 1980, we will be running out of
 25 fossil fuels. Lo and behold, the

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 year is 2020 and we are actually
 3 energy independent and have more
 4 natural gas and oil underground than
 5 any nation on earth. You can't
 6 always believe the experts.
 7 We hear all this technical
 8 stuff and people have these wonderful
 9 reports and research, and it's great.
 10 But we are regular guys. I work for
 11 Franklin Square and swing a hammer
 12 for a living. I want to know, how is
 13 it going to help me, and I want to
 14 know if it's going to hurt me?
 15 Nothing I've heard is going to help,
 16 and everything I know is going to
 17 hurt me. They call this clean
 18 energy? This is the dirtiest project
 19 I have never seen. The blast that's
 20 going to be washing up on shores --
 21 when some of us were kids, it was
 22 "save the whales." Whatever happened
 23 to that? Now it's "kill the whales."
 24 They are all washing up on shore.
 25 There is nothing clean, there is

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 nothing safe, and there's nothing to
 3 benefit the environment.
 4 So we say to ourselves, maybe
 5 economically something good will
 6 happen. I don't know. Seven and a
 7 half million dollars to the Village?
 8 It's nothing. It's a joke. It's a
 9 slap in the face. They should have
 10 show girls and ice cream carts going
 11 down the block every single day for
 12 the rest of our lives, and free
 13 taxes, and maybe -- I don't know, but
 14 maybe the Village should consider
 15 that. There is no benefit here.
 16 It's all negative and they are
 17 slapping us in the face.
 18 So you ask why, and here's my
 19 other story, and I'll conclude with
 20 this. When I was a kid, I wasn't
 21 religious. My parents sent us to
 22 Hebrew school, and the first thing we
 23 learned was about Abraham, Isaac, and
 24 Jacob. Abraham's father bowed before
 25 these idols of stone, and I said, who

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 the heck would do that? You couldn't
 3 get into your head why. Fast forward
 4 a few thousand years later, isn't
 5 this exactly what they are doing?
 6 Bowing before the gods of wind and
 7 earth and all this kind of thing?
 8 In other words, it doesn't
 9 matter if it's good for you. It
 10 doesn't matter if it's bad for you.
 11 There is an agenda that they are
 12 going to push, and we can't be nice
 13 about it and just explain technically
 14 why it's not going to work. They
 15 don't care. They are going to push
 16 this thing no matter what.
 17 What we are here to do, really
 18 led by our Congressman here, who is
 19 unbelievable, really, in every single
 20 way possible. I have never seen a
 21 congressman in my 25 years of public
 22 service like Congressman Anthony. We
 23 are going to have to fight, and what
 24 we are going to be doing in the state
 25 legislation, the Senator and I, and



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 the Assembly and the Senate, is fight
 3 them legally, and we are taking
 4 measures to do just that. We are
 5 going to hit them where it hurts and
 6 hit them often. We're going to go
 7 after each and every one of the
 8 Democrats on the Assembly side --
 9 I've been on the phone with a lot of
 10 them -- and we're really going to
 11 crush these people. You want to come
 12 into our neighborhoods? We are going
 13 into your neighborhoods. You want to
 14 do it to us, we are going to do it to
 15 you ten times as worse.
 16 I'm going to pass the mic over.
 17 We are here, and we're going to fight
 18 for you. Everyone says we are going
 19 to fight for you. We're really -- we
 20 are doing that each and every day.
 21 On the simplest of levels, if you
 22 look at our social media, this is all
 23 we talk about, is this issue, because
 24 if we lose this, nothing else really
 25 matters.

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 Thank you for being here for
 3 us. Thank you, Mayor and everybody
 4 else.
 5 SEN. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:
 6 Good evening. For anyone who doesn't
 7 know me, I'm Senator Patricia
 8 Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, and I'm very
 9 proud to be your Senator. I'm very
 10 proud also to be working with the
 11 Congressman and Assemblyman Brown on
 12 this issue.
 13 This isn't about politics.
 14 This is about our home, this is about
 15 our beaches, this is about our
 16 beautiful view. It's about what we
 17 treasure most in this area. I'm from
 18 Malverne, hometown just like Island
 19 Park. Very small, tight-knit, don't
 20 come into our home and tell us what
 21 to do and think you're going to get
 22 away with it. It's been very
 23 disturbing, as the Congressman said.
 24 I held the home rule bill. I
 25 did not advance it, because I wanted

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 to put Equinor's feet to the fire. I
 3 had them in my office several times.
 4 Just before the bill was hijacked
 5 by the senator from Brooklyn, they
 6 asked me to take them on faith. They
 7 asked me to have a little bit of
 8 faith in them. And I said, "You have
 9 done nothing to earn my faith. I'm
 10 not about to advance this bill until
 11 I know that my district is
 12 protected." And I was not
 13 comfortable. As was said, there has
 14 been no transparency. There's been
 15 no answers to the questions.
 16 Right after I was elected, I
 17 came to Island Park for one of the
 18 presentations, and it was staged and
 19 not truly answering questions. It
 20 was really fake, and I walked out of
 21 there thinking in my head, this can't
 22 be happening. This is a bad dream.
 23 And it has continued.
 24 But I want you to know that I'm
 25 continuing to fight every day for

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 this community, and the Assemblyman
 3 and I are exploring our legal avenues
 4 to stop this. The Governor has not
 5 signed the bill yet, and I think
 6 that's one of the things that we can
 7 put pressure on her, although I think
 8 she will likely sign it because she
 9 is talking about climate and the fact
 10 that she thinks she's protecting us
 11 from an environmental standpoint.
 12 But I have to tell you,
 13 everything I have heard about this is
 14 not friendly to the environment.
 15 What they are going to do out in the
 16 ocean, drilling and putting these
 17 pylons into the ground, these blades
 18 cannot be recycled. If there is a
 19 fire, these things will burn, just
 20 burn, and there's no way to put it
 21 out. Never mind the fact that the
 22 cables potentially are harmful, will
 23 decrease our property values, and who
 24 knows what the health effects are.
 25 We know that there are health



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 effects. They are not telling us
 3 what they know from their research.
 4 There are so many unanswered
 5 questions that there is no way we can
 6 let this proceed. Equinor is not
 7 giving us the answers that we have
 8 asked for. It's not a two-way
 9 street. We keep asking and they keep
 10 ignoring us. For those reasons, they
 11 are not welcome. And as the
 12 Assemblyman said, we are very lucky
 13 to have Anthony D'Esposito as our
 14 Congressman, because he continues to
 15 fight and bring awareness to this
 16 issue at the federal level.
 17 We continue to find more and
 18 more about Equinor. The thing we
 19 just found the other day is that they
 20 were fined ten and a half million
 21 dollars in Iran for bribing
 22 government officials. This is who
 23 the Governor has invited and NYSERDA
 24 has invited into our community, and
 25 it's just not right. The more we

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 dig, the more information we get
 3 against them and the more we dislike
 4 what is going on. My office
 5 continues to be open.
 6 Thank you, Mayor, for allowing
 7 me to speak. Thank you everybody for
 8 attending, so that we know we are on
 9 the right side of this issue. Our
 10 job it to represent your interests,
 11 and I'm glad to know we've got a good
 12 sense of what everybody wants. Thank
 13 you.
 14 COUNCILWOMAN RYDER: My name is
 15 Laura Ryder. I'm the Councilwoman
 16 for the 4th District, which includes
 17 Island Park and Oceanside. I
 18 currently hold the seat that was
 19 formerly owned by Congressman Anthony
 20 D'Esposito. I have been on the Board
 21 for about four months, and I will
 22 tell you at this point that my office
 23 and the Town of Hempstead has
 24 received no information whatsoever
 25 from Equinor. They have submitted no

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 applications, no requests, nor have
 3 we been provided any information at
 4 all. And from what I know and from
 5 what I am seeing, I can assure you
 6 that I stand with my colleagues here
 7 in government, and at this moment, I
 8 do not support this project at all
 9 because they are not providing any
 10 information. There are so many
 11 concerns that people have regarding,
 12 you know, a sound that may be emitted
 13 from the equipment, the environmental
 14 issues, health effects of any
 15 potential lines, and we don't have
 16 answers to those questions. I thank
 17 our Congressman for taking the lead
 18 on this, and our Senator and our
 19 Assemblyman, and I stand with them
 20 and oppose this project at this
 21 point.
 22 Thank you for having me, and
 23 thank you, Mr. Mayor, for inviting me
 24 and giving me the opportunity to be
 25 here and speak to you all. And to

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 those of you who reached out to my
 3 office, I want to thank you. Too
 4 much people have reached out. I
 5 think people understand that I just
 6 don't have the information. Nothing
 7 has come for the Town of Hempstead at
 8 this point. Nothing at all. Thank
 9 you.
 10 MAYOR MCGINTY: At this time,
 11 I've got sign-in sheets here. I
 12 imagine some of you signed in without
 13 wanting to speak. I will work my way
 14 down the list. Nikki and Vivian
 15 Kane? Kathryn Silliman? Yvonne
 16 Graci? Kyle Colona. Do you want to
 17 speak? Microphone, and state your
 18 name and address for the record,
 19 please.
 20 MR. COLONA: My name is Kyle
 21 Colona. My address is 452 Long Beach
 22 Road. I've lived here most of my
 23 life. You mentioned legal action.
 24 What specific legal action can we
 25 take this time to get a temporary



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 injunction based on the fact that
 3 there have been no environmental
 4 impact studies on this project?
 5 SEN. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:
 6 Thank you. I'll try to answer that
 7 question the best I can. When movies
 8 request -- put in the request to be
 9 able to alienate the park, they put
 10 in what's called a home rule request.
 11 The Board had to pass a resolution.
 12 It came to the state legislature.
 13 There was one home rule request given
 14 to the Assembly and to the Senate. I
 15 then prepared a bill based on their
 16 request. That bill is still pending.
 17 That bill has not been advanced. It
 18 didn't go through committee. It
 19 hasn't come to the floor.
 20 What happened was somebody took
 21 my bill and cut and pasted it into
 22 another bill. There was no home rule
 23 request for Senator Parker from
 24 Brooklyn, his bill. That's a breach
 25 of the procedure and a breach of the

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 Constitution, to advance a bill that
 3 does not have a home rule request
 4 from the local municipality.
 5 Based on that, along with a few
 6 other things procedurally that was
 7 done -- and I'm sorry the Assemblyman
 8 left -- because when the bill came
 9 before the Assembly, there were
 10 multiple requests from the floor to
 11 amend the bill, to lay it aside, to
 12 allow it to be amended, and they were
 13 denied by the chair that presided
 14 over the Assembly. So on the Senate
 15 side, we have the home rule request,
 16 and in the Assembly, we have the home
 17 rule request and others. Based on
 18 that, we should -- we are going to
 19 request that those bills are
 20 stricken, and if the Governor signs
 21 it, we can pursue that and say they
 22 were not properly before the
 23 legislative bodies.
 24 If I can just say, as far as
 25 your question about putting a

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 moratorium on energy, I know that
 3 there were other requests at the
 4 federal level to the President to put
 5 a moratorium on offshore wind by
 6 Congressmen from other areas about
 7 their positions, and I don't believe
 8 the President has ruled on those. If
 9 the Congressmen -- that's,
 10 unfortunately at the federal level,
 11 that's what has been done, but there
 12 has been no action taken by the
 13 President.
 14 MAYOR MCGINTY: Isabelle
 15 Forzano? I'm working my way through
 16 the list. Silliman? I called her.
 17 No. Nancy Marino?
 18 MS. MARINO: My name is Nancy
 19 Marino. I've lived at 23 Parente
 20 Lane North for approximately
 21 40 years. With all respect to all of
 22 you, I appreciate your efforts.
 23 However, it seems a little ambiguous
 24 as far as where exactly we are in
 25 terms of how this company is being

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 allowed to do things within our
 3 community by buying pops and to take
 4 soil samples and do other things like
 5 that, and it seems like it's kind of
 6 a free reign. Again, I would
 7 appreciate knowing how far down the
 8 road are they, and is it just a pipe
 9 dream that we are going to be able to
 10 stop this, or is there actual
 11 concrete things that make it possible
 12 for us as a very small village to do
 13 that?
 14 CONGRESSMAN D'ESPOSITO: I will
 15 try to answer that as best I can. To
 16 talk about the initial phases, I
 17 guess the sale of the property, the
 18 Village has no authority, or any
 19 taxing jurisdiction doesn't have an
 20 authority over who sells their
 21 property to who. When it comes to
 22 soil borings, as the Mayor stated in
 23 the slide show, as soon as the
 24 permits were requested by another
 25 company that wasn't named Equinor, as



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 soon as the Village -- and it was
 3 within hours -- as soon as the
 4 Village realized that it was, in
 5 fact, Equinor, and not some other
 6 company that was doing it just for
 7 environmental reasons, the permits
 8 were immediately rescinded. Right
 9 now, they have no permits to do any
 10 boring in the Village of Island Park.
 11 The Long Island Railroad property is
 12 not controlled by the Village
 13 government or the town government or
 14 the county. The Railroad has the
 15 authority over that, and the
 16 Railroad, unfortunately, is part of a
 17 state entity, so they will be allowed
 18 to drill soil as long as they want.
 19 How far down the line is this?
 20 I think, like I said in the
 21 beginning, one of the critical points
 22 to this entire project -- and I guess
 23 any offshore wind project; this is
 24 obviously the only one I have really
 25 dealt with, and hopefully the only

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 one I ever have to deal with -- when
 3 it comes to this stuff, and in my
 4 meetings with Equinor, from the CEO
 5 all the way down to people that work
 6 for Equinor and in the offshore wind
 7 industry, this project -- and I think
 8 offshore wind projects in general --
 9 have very specific timetables. They
 10 are meeting benchmarks within days.
 11 They need to have -- they need to be
 12 in a certain position by 2025. They
 13 need to be in a certain position by
 14 2027. Every day, when you have a
 15 village that turns around and
 16 rescinds those permits -- it's now
 17 been two and a half months that they
 18 are behind doing any soil boring in
 19 the Village of Island Park. All that
 20 time is going to catch up and they
 21 are going to get to a point where
 22 Island Park and the barrier islands
 23 is no longer the place to make
 24 landfall, and they are going to head
 25 to the five boroughs. When they see

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 rooms like this full of people, they
 3 understand that they are not going to
 4 go to Bridgeview or they're not going
 5 to go to the village green and hand
 6 out candy canes. They're not going
 7 to go to the City of Long Beach and
 8 put up a Ferris wheel and everybody
 9 is going to smile and say come on in.
 10 That's not going to happen. I think
 11 they realize that.
 12 What we need to make sure that
 13 we do is have our local government --
 14 and just because they're here, when
 15 you rescind permits like that and
 16 hold them up, every day that passes
 17 is a day that's against them, and the
 18 clock is ticking and they know that.
 19 Not only does their board and CEO
 20 know that, their shareholders know
 21 that, and quite frankly, the State of
 22 New York knows that. The state has
 23 certain green energy initiatives that
 24 they need to meet in a certain amount
 25 of time. Every day that passes that

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 they don't meet those initiatives and
 3 we hold them up here on the barrier
 4 islands, they are going to go
 5 elsewhere. So I don't think it's a
 6 pipe dream, to sum it all up.
 7 MAYOR McGINTY: I want to
 8 assure you that the Village of Island
 9 Park will put legal roadblocks every
 10 step of the way.
 11 As we continue, Rosa Torres
 12 Panchame? No? LuAnn Shnayer or John
 13 Allard at 92 Ostend Road?
 14 MS. SHNAYER: Hi. I have been
 15 in Island Park since 1986 --
 16 MAYOR McGINTY: Name and
 17 address for the record, please.
 18 MS. SHNAYER: LuAnn Shnayer, 92
 19 Ostend Road. I don't know enough
 20 about this. It sounds like the
 21 entire room knows way more than I do.
 22 Where can I read up on this? I need
 23 an assignment. My son had you in
 24 first grade. Where can I find
 25 information, please? I'm not --



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 besides social media. I don't want
 3 social media. That's all a personal
 4 kind of thing. I want cold hard
 5 facts.
 6 MAYOR MCGINTY: Do we have your
 7 e-mail address?
 8 MS. SHNAYER: Yes. LuAnn dot
 9 Shnayer. Then I can educate myself
 10 better. I'm all for saving the
 11 environment and everything that
 12 sounds like you are all concerned
 13 about, but I'm also really worried
 14 about energy big time. So I need
 15 more.
 16 MAYOR MCGINTY: Cristina
 17 Hohmann? Who wants to speak from the
 18 Village of Island Park? Right here,
 19 please. Name and address for the
 20 record, please.
 21 MS. DORENFAST: Deborah
 22 Dorenfast, 11 D'Amato Drive. First
 23 of all, I want to thank all the
 24 elected officials who are helping me
 25 sleep a little bit better at night.

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 I have a couple of points. One is,
 3 nowhere in the world are these cables
 4 as close to residents. And I
 5 actually got an e-mail from Equinor
 6 saying, "Don't worry, Deb. We're not
 7 going to hit your trees. We're going
 8 to go right in front of your door."
 9 And I e-mailed them back, "Yeah,
 10 that's a little too close." I didn't
 11 hear from them again. They were very
 12 nice at the open house and smiled,
 13 but if you asked them a tough
 14 question, they got green in the face.
 15 There has never been a study.
 16 There's nothing to compare to what
 17 they're doing to Long Beach and
 18 Oceanside, not only the electrical
 19 cables and the health effects of
 20 that, but flooding on properties,
 21 rodents, long-term effects, you name
 22 it.
 23 The other thing is, today I
 24 went door to door to some of my
 25 neighbors to talk about the meeting.

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 I would be very happy to assist. I'm
 3 a retired person. A very lazy
 4 retired person, but a retired person.
 5 I'm happy to assist with mailings,
 6 especially if it comes from
 7 government. I mean, the groups that
 8 are helping are fantastic, but I'm
 9 constantly meeting people saying, "I
 10 got something in the mail, but I've
 11 got three kids. What is this all
 12 about?" Today, I'm still hearing
 13 that. The Mayor is very good about
 14 communication. Please, if there is
 15 something I can do -- and I think if
 16 you reached out there, people here
 17 who would like to save their homes
 18 and would like to give some of their
 19 time to get the word out there, so
 20 what can I say?
 21 MAYOR MCGINTY: Thank you. On
 22 the right side of the room, I saw
 23 hands raised from the Village. Sir,
 24 you will be next.
 25 MS. SLOTT: Debbie Slott, 11

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 Julian Place. I live right near
 3 which the substation is going to be.
 4 It's slated to be 60 feet high and
 5 probably needs flood mitigation. The
 6 construction in our area I'm
 7 concerned about, I'm concerned about
 8 the danger. There is only two roads
 9 out of Island Park for evacuation.
 10 Substations go on fire. There are so
 11 many issues. They want to circumvent
 12 all local ordinances. I don't know
 13 if everybody knows that. There is a
 14 huge list, it could be 50 or more
 15 ordinances long, of noise and like
 16 what Debbie said, rodents and
 17 everything electrical. I'm just very
 18 frightened for our health, safety,
 19 and not to mention it's just not
 20 practical. I mean, what is anybody
 21 doing to -- when the ordinance sheet
 22 came out, like --
 23 CONGRESSMAN D'ESPOSITO: Let me
 24 stop you. At no point will anybody
 25 be permitted to violate an ordinance,



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 nor will they receive permission.
 3 That's it. That's in stone. Hang
 4 on. Stay there. Just stay. You are
 5 a beautiful woman. Stay.
 6 In addition to the New York
 7 State Senate, the New York State
 8 Assembly, and the home rule message
 9 Constitutionality and so forth, here
 10 in the Village, there are several
 11 steps. If John Smith and Company
 12 want to change use of a piece of
 13 property, they have to come before
 14 the Mayor and the Board of Trustees
 15 to petition to do that. At that
 16 point, the Mayor and the Board of
 17 Trustees can say no, and that's it.
 18 Secondly, if they say yes, they
 19 have to go further. They have to go
 20 before the Zoning Board of Appeals.
 21 Once again, the answer is no. I
 22 don't want to speak for the Zoning
 23 Board, but the answer is no.
 24 As far as ordinances go, each
 25 of us have to get building permits to

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 do something in our homes. They need
 3 a building permit and they need a
 4 boring permit, and they need to
 5 address it seriously and they need to
 6 address it honestly. Nobody is going
 7 to do that.
 8 MAYOR MCGINTY: Name and
 9 address for the record?
 10 MR. SMITH: Ian Smith. I work
 11 at the library. Island Park Library.
 12 Come on over. I just want to say
 13 that we do have binders from Equinor
 14 with information. For the person who
 15 was asking before, or anybody else,
 16 if you want information about what
 17 Equinor is offering, what their deal
 18 is, please come to the library. We
 19 have a whole lot of information.
 20 MS. ALLOCCA: Hi. Kathleen
 21 Allocca, 3 Lancaster Place, Island
 22 Park. You did mention about the Long
 23 Island Railroad boring thing that
 24 they were doing. Going forward, can
 25 the Village ask companies that are

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 putting in for a permit if they are
 3 going to be doing work for Equinor?
 4 CONGRESSMAN D'ESPOSITO: Yes.
 5 MS. ALLOCCA: The E.F. Barrett
 6 substation has the potential to
 7 drastically harm the health of
 8 everybody -- me, my family, my
 9 friends, communities, the sea life
 10 that's going to be killed, the sea
 11 beds that are going to be destroyed.
 12 It's horrible. I wish that there was
 13 something that could be done to get
 14 more people involved. Nobody -- I
 15 can tell you Oceanside is probably
 16 clueless. They have no idea that
 17 they are going have to substation
 18 back there by Costco. And I know
 19 this because when we went to Equinor
 20 in Villa Allegra, we asked about that
 21 site, and they told us they are
 22 building a substation there because
 23 the Barrett land was too weak and too
 24 old to handle the power that was
 25 going to come in.

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 MALE SPEAKER: I don't want to
 3 interrupt. They can't build anything
 4 without a (inaudible).
 5 MS. ALLOCCA: That's different
 6 than what was explained to us.
 7 MALE SPEAKER: What I'm saying
 8 is the minute that that particular
 9 (inaudible), it would be triggered.
 10 There would have to be public notice.
 11 It would be months and months before
 12 they ever even -- if they were to get
 13 part of the town board, and I'm sure
 14 our councilwoman can do yeoman's work
 15 to make sure that the Oceanside
 16 community is notified.
 17 MS. ALLOCCA: Perfect, because
 18 we did have a lengthy discussion
 19 about that, and they promised they
 20 were going to try to build on the
 21 Liona site.
 22 FEMALE SPEAKER: We need all of
 23 you to keep talking about this. We
 24 can talk about this until we're blue
 25 in the face. It's all over social



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 media. It's in the newspapers. We
 3 need you to keep talking to your
 4 neighbors. Somebody said that they
 5 knocked on their door, their
 6 neighbors. They didn't even know
 7 about the meeting tonight. We need
 8 to keep doing that. As the
 9 Congressman said, we need to be a
 10 unified front, and we need to have as
 11 many people behind this as possible
 12 to make sure that people know that we
 13 are not going to stand for this and
 14 we have one voice and we are all
 15 against it. We need you to do it,
 16 too.
 17 MS. ALLOCCA: We do.
 18 Christina, we go, we go -- we were at
 19 Atlantic Beach. We were there last
 20 night. And I thank everybody for
 21 coming here, and I am glad that you
 22 actually are putting a stance that
 23 you are against this. I just -- like
 24 I said, I wish we could get more
 25 people involved. That's all.

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 Everybody is, like, it's a done deal.
 3 And I'm, like, no, it's not. But
 4 that's what everybody thinks. So
 5 maybe there's something we could do.
 6 Put out a flyer, send it out to all
 7 the houses. I'll join in and hand
 8 deliver them to houses. I don't
 9 care. We need to get this stuff
 10 done. It's very harmful to us.
 11 MS. LEO: Hi. Michelle Leo,
 12 468 Long Beach Road. Couple of
 13 things. Thank you all for being
 14 here, Congressman, Town of Hempstead.
 15 So, I notice that Nassau County
 16 representatives aren't here. Just
 17 wondering why. But I did notice that
 18 Mr. Blakeman's office did send a
 19 representative to attend the Atlantic
 20 Beach meeting last night, which was
 21 good.
 22 Back to the zoning. Right now,
 23 offshore wind in New Jersey, I forget
 24 which project it is, they are suing
 25 towns, cities in New Jersey because

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 they are not giving the permits. If
 3 our zoning board says, hey --
 4 MAYOR MCGINTY: Sue me. We are
 5 going to chase them with environment
 6 impact statements, with this secret
 7 process. It's -- sue us. I will put
 8 my money down.
 9 MS. LEO: We all found out
 10 about this -- well, not all of us. I
 11 found out about this in the IDCA
 12 meeting back in March. We were told
 13 to find out more information about
 14 Article VII. Article VII is out to
 15 exclude residents. That's the utmost
 16 slap in the face to all of us
 17 stakeholders. That's all.
 18 MAYOR MCGINTY: You saw how
 19 they treated me when I asked --
 20 MS. LEO: I know.
 21 MAYOR MCGINTY: Elected
 22 officials included.
 23 MS. DONOVAN: Hi. My name is
 24 Kristen Donovan. I live at 15 Parma.
 25 I lived there for last 20 years.

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 Today I went online and did some
 3 research. I didn't know about this
 4 until a neighbor sent me a letter
 5 saying that I should put in for a
 6 public notification request for --
 7 what is it? Notice online --
 8 MAYOR MCGINTY: Status.
 9 MS. DONOVAN: Okay. So I was
 10 not aware of that. I'm not on social
 11 media. I'm a teacher. I don't do
 12 that. The lack of my knowledge,
 13 based on information coming from the
 14 state or my local municipality, I'm
 15 sorry to say I'm not getting any word
 16 -- like, I'm only hearing this as a
 17 rumor. Rumors are not effective. I
 18 will double that up and say please,
 19 if there are letters, we have
 20 billboards and I have your phone
 21 number, but can you please put up
 22 that there is a meeting on this
 23 tonight so that people actually know
 24 it's coming from the local
 25 government?



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 MAYOR MCGINTY: There was some
 3 (inaudible) put out today.
 4 MS. DONOVAN: I'm going to say,
 5 one day's notice about these meetings
 6 is not -- I dropped what I was doing
 7 and came over here. I'm ripping up
 8 my sidewalk from -- you know, and you
 9 can't get to my roads anyway.
 10 In a couple of hours, I found
 11 out that the tracks that they want to
 12 build these towers on are exactly the
 13 same tracks that the container ships
 14 come in from New York City. Our port
 15 is the busiest port. We actually
 16 trump Los Angeles. We have 900,000
 17 containers that come in annually and
 18 they want to have this tower system
 19 right between it? I'm really
 20 confused about where that is and how
 21 that's going to line up.
 22 The other thing I'm very
 23 confused about when I opened up and
 24 looked at the website that talked
 25 about the biodiversity of our water

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 systems, because I was trying to see
 3 the impact, but obviously they don't
 4 want to put anything out there. It's
 5 called Northeast Ocean Data, and on
 6 there, it showed me exactly where
 7 they're talking about, these
 8 loggerhead turtle land. It's, like,
 9 big deals. White whales, humpbacks,
 10 the amount of whales and humpbacks
 11 and porpoises, tortoises -- not
 12 tortoises, porpoises and seals that
 13 have washed up since 2001 to 2020 is
 14 astronomical. And in 2016 is when
 15 they opened up the one down in
 16 Martha's Vineyard, over there. I'm
 17 actually going to go on and kind of
 18 see if there are more animals washing
 19 up at that time because of the
 20 electric magnetism -- you know what I
 21 mean.
 22 And the thing about the --
 23 yeah, and the power, that power
 24 cable, if they want to come in here
 25 and do this, they have to drop a

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 million dollars on every one of our
 3 houses. 7 and a half million dollars
 4 is a joke. That's not even a
 5 starting off. If they want to start
 6 a conversation, they can put out a
 7 million and we can talk about it.
 8 MR. SCHNEE: Thank you all for
 9 coming tonight. My name is Arthur
 10 Schnee. I live at 167 Biltmore
 11 Boulevard in Massapequa. I came out
 12 here because this is really important
 13 to me for a whole bunch of different
 14 reasons. I want to thank you guys
 15 for standing up and speaking out
 16 about this. This will be devastating
 17 to Long Island for many reasons.
 18 Fishing, navigation, the water they
 19 use to cool the substations, dumping
 20 hot water into our already tepid
 21 water, the beauty, home prices, rates
 22 -- all kinds of negative effects from
 23 this.
 24 I am hoping you guys reach out
 25 to your colleagues, because we talk

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 about how are we going to get more
 3 people involved and know about this.
 4 You guys need to speak out to your
 5 colleagues and tell them what is
 6 happening and for them to speak up,
 7 and this will get into the news and
 8 more people will follow our
 9 legislative leaders, because when you
 10 guys speak up, other people will
 11 follow and you will get more support.
 12 I have been doing that in my
 13 jurisdiction of Massapequa. I have
 14 been calling all the legislative
 15 leaders like Hochul, Garbarino, who
 16 else? Blake. So I have been
 17 speaking up and trying to get in --
 18 sorry, and also Senator White, and
 19 they are not speaking up. And Durso.
 20 These people need to speak up, and we
 21 are urging you to contact the people
 22 you know and get them to speak up.
 23 The more people that speak up about
 24 this, the more it will get into the
 25 news and the more it will be



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 followed. So we need your help.
 3 Thank you.
 4 One other thing. And not just
 5 for the cable to go through Long
 6 Beach; we want to stop this project
 7 completely because of all the
 8 different reasons I already outlined.
 9 I'm looking to you guys as leaders to
 10 step up and contact your colleagues
 11 and get them on board so we can fight
 12 this and be more on the news, because
 13 Long Island doesn't deserve this from
 14 New York State. Thank you very much,
 15 guys.
 16 MR. LONERGAN: George Lonergan,
 17 27 Beach Walk. Couple of quick
 18 points. One is Governor, Governor,
 19 Governor. It's my understanding that
 20 the entire coastline of the United
 21 States is federal. She can't be
 22 leasing large tracts of the ocean,
 23 our territorial waters to foreign
 24 governments and also foreign public
 25 corporations. I start right there.

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 She's got plans to lease windmills
 3 into the Great Lakes. She's got lots
 4 of great plans. I'm sure there's a
 5 lot of envelopes that work out. We
 6 know about the Buffalo stadium. We
 7 know what her husband does for a
 8 living. That's all public record.
 9 Next point is all the locals
 10 here who lived through Sandy saw what
 11 happened when the power went down and
 12 we couldn't pump our basements out
 13 and we couldn't do this and we
 14 couldn't do that. According to the
 15 company itself, there is a maximum
 16 amount of wind where they shut the
 17 entire windmill project off before
 18 the wind destroys the windmill
 19 itself. The first phase of the
 20 windmills is 47. The second phase is
 21 160, and then there's a thousand.
 22 There's a thousand on either side.
 23 We are talking many, many windmills
 24 right off Long Beach. If that shuts
 25 down, we don't have power. It could

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 shut down in a nor'easter, it could
 3 shut down in a blizzard. What
 4 happens then? It's life and death.
 5 Finally, I have my own time
 6 line. The original plant, the one
 7 with the short stack was built in
 8 1959. The one with the tall stack
 9 was built in 1963. They were
 10 originally coal, they went to oil,
 11 and now they operate on gas. They
 12 have been updated. The man the
 13 trustees backed when they originally
 14 built them, they provided that we
 15 would get a substantial tax break in
 16 our schools. Eight years ago, we
 17 lost a percentage of that tax break
 18 to other communities that wouldn't
 19 dare put up with this windmill and
 20 the massive amount of electric that's
 21 coming through. It is health
 22 concerning, how much electricity can
 23 trigger many types of cancer, and
 24 it's all been documented with the
 25 Indian Point Power Plant up in the

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 Hudson. Remember when the power
 3 lines used to be so high? Now they
 4 have power lines that are four
 5 stories tall. They branch out. "War
 6 of the Worlds" type of thing.
 7 There's a lot they're saying here.
 8 They're all on a time line. We will
 9 do all we can, but we will see what
 10 happens.
 11 MS. NICHOLAS: Good evening
 12 all. Thank you for being here. My
 13 name is Joanne Nicholas, 31 Parma
 14 Road in Island Park. A few questions
 15 with Article VII. It's part of their
 16 application to the state. If I read
 17 Governor Hochul right, she will
 18 probably let them enroll Article VII
 19 and take the property and we will sue
 20 until we are blue in the face. And
 21 they will let the windmills go
 22 through. I could be wrong on that,
 23 but short of eminent domain, the
 24 federal government can take the
 25 property if they want to push it.



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 You keep saying you are going to sue.
 3 Are the attorneys that are going to
 4 do this pro bono, or where will the
 5 funds come from if we want to do a
 6 lawsuit? The town, the county, or
 7 the village? Because you are going
 8 to need funds to fight a case.
 9 SEN. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: If
 10 I could address some of your
 11 comments. According to the New York
 12 Constitution, parkland cannot be
 13 alienated unless the state
 14 legislature authorizes it, and it has
 15 to be requested from the local
 16 government, it has to pass state
 17 legislature, and has to be signed by
 18 the Governor. The Governor has not
 19 signed the parkland alienation bills
 20 yet. And as I stated earlier, we
 21 believe that those bills are
 22 defective because they did not have a
 23 home rule request, which is required
 24 by the Constitution.
 25 So the state legislature, both

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 the Assembly and the Senate, the
 3 Republican conferences are considered
 4 litigation that may get funding from
 5 various groups that are also opposed
 6 to this project. It's not coming
 7 from Island Park. It's going to come
 8 from -- the litigation I'm speaking
 9 of is not funded from local forces.
 10 If there are things that come before
 11 this Board that -- from the Village
 12 Board and it's denied, and they
 13 potentially bring in Article 78
 14 against the Village to direct them to
 15 follow a certain directive, that's a
 16 different issue, and that can be
 17 handled by attorneys for Island Park.
 18 But that's way down the line.
 19 Equinor is going to run from this if
 20 we keep fighting them every step of
 21 the way, which we are doing.
 22 I would just like to add -- I
 23 apologize -- they have also asked,
 24 and you probably saw it in the news,
 25 there is a request from Equinor,

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 along with the other company, for
 3 more money because they cannot stick
 4 to the deal that was approved.
 5 That's also another hurdle that they
 6 have to get through.
 7 MS. NICHOLAS: And the only
 8 other suggestion I might have is you
 9 have residents and nonresidents
 10 offering their time to help. If we
 11 can get a petition and people can go
 12 door to door, you know, town to town,
 13 whatever it takes, to send up to the
 14 government.
 15 FEMALE SPEAKER: It's right
 16 here.
 17 MS. NICHOLAS: We need more. I
 18 would take it to the North Shore,
 19 because it's ultimately going to
 20 affect everybody. So that would be
 21 something.
 22 MS. ALESSI: Good evening. My
 23 name is Helen Dorado Alessi. I live
 24 at 199 Nassau Lane. Happens to be
 25 the route of the cables that will be

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 hitting the back of my home and my
 3 pool. Moved here two and a half
 4 years ago from Long Beach. Lived
 5 there for 20 some-odd years. One of
 6 the things that I keep hearing over
 7 and over is that we need more people
 8 to know what is going on, and there
 9 is a large population in Island Park
 10 of Hispanic families. I ask you
 11 please to start putting information
 12 in Spanish. My understanding is that
 13 40 percent of Island Park is Hispanic
 14 and/or Spanish speaking and it would
 15 be extremely, extremely helpful. I'm
 16 the director of the Latino Civic
 17 Association. We are more than happy
 18 to help and be part of getting the
 19 word out to Hispanics.
 20 If you indulge me, I would like
 21 to say this in Spanish, so that there
 22 might be people here who speak that
 23 language.
 24 (Whereupon, the speaker spoke in
 25 Spanish.)



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 MS. ALESSI: Thank you so much. I
 3 appreciate it.
 4 MAYOR MCGINTY: Early this
 5 morning, I had a conversation with
 6 Marguerite Grasing from the Hispanic
 7 Brotherhood. She's indicated she
 8 will assist the Village in any way
 9 possible to get our message out. And
 10 we are aware that of the 1200 homes
 11 in the Village, 130 or 140 are, in
 12 fact, occupied by Hispanics or owned
 13 by Hispanics, so we are aware of it.
 14 Thank you.
 15 MS. ALESSI: I would appreciate
 16 information getting out a lot earlier
 17 than it has. Thank you.
 18 MS. KING: Hi. My name is
 19 Mindy King, Junior (phonetic), from
 20 Island Park, and I have lived here my
 21 entire life. Thank you, Mayor,
 22 Village Board, Congressman, Senator,
 23 all of you working for us every day
 24 as hard as you work to get this
 25 stopped. Thank you.

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 MS. SULLIVAN: Hi. Sorry for
 3 the confusion. I thought you called
 4 my name. I just want to say.
 5 MAYOR MCGINTY: Name and
 6 address for the record.
 7 MS. SULLIVAN: Oh, really? Is
 8 that actually something that's
 9 required? Because -- Liz, she's
 10 sitting there, when we asked for
 11 Equinor's address, they didn't have
 12 to give it, and I was escorted out by
 13 Mr. Walsh. But I am 107 Coolidge,
 14 Long Beach, New York, born and raised
 15 Point Lookout 54 years. Hello.
 16 I'm going to say something
 17 really quick. My grandfather built
 18 this area, built all the houses in
 19 Point Lookout, and I'm very, very
 20 passionate about all this. I'm very
 21 concerned about how -- I'm a project
 22 manager on Wall Street and I really
 23 don't like to bring up history, but I
 24 am going to bring up history. I
 25 would like to know how we got to this

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 point. According to the Mayor, in
 3 2017, I was told that you partnered
 4 up with Kaminsky.
 5 MAYOR MCGINTY: (Inaudible.)
 6 MS. SULLIVAN: Were you
 7 consulted by anybody, or were you
 8 kind of like steered to one
 9 direction? Was there money involved?
 10 Were you actually thinking of the
 11 environmental impact?
 12 MAYOR MCGINTY: Quite a remark.
 13 MS. SULLIVAN: I'm just asking,
 14 because that's --
 15 MAYOR MCGINTY: Let's make this
 16 clear. I'm not going to dignify that
 17 kind of comment. As I indicated
 18 before, the context of this letter
 19 was the Island Park school district
 20 had just suffered an enormous loss to
 21 property tax revenue that would take
 22 place over a seven-year, eight-year
 23 period. The thought process -- and
 24 it was early in the process -- the
 25 thought process was, if they were

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 going to Gowanus, why not go to the
 3 Barrett Plant? Only the E.F. Barrett
 4 Plant. Thank you.
 5 MS. SULLIVAN: So the end
 6 justifies the means.
 7 Another statement is when you
 8 were consulting your attorneys, the
 9 City Councilmen, they didn't know
 10 their name, (inaudible) might be Mike
 11 and Tom, you know, (inaudible), my
 12 grandfather -- who are you
 13 consulting?
 14 MAYOR MCGINTY: As indicated
 15 earlier we have retained the services
 16 of retired appellate judge James
 17 Catterson.
 18 MS. SULLIVAN: Is he good at
 19 beating renewals, like in upstate New
 20 York? Your research on this kind of
 21 lawyers, have you done your research
 22 on --
 23 MAYOR MCGINTY: Yes, I have.
 24 MS. SULLIVAN: Okay. Because I
 25 have been told by Long Beach City



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 Council that they didn't actually --
 3 thank you. Thank you very much.
 4 MS. RISKIN: So we have --
 5 MAYOR MCGINTY: Name and
 6 address for the record, please.
 7 MS. RISKIN: Caren Riskin, 726
 8 East Chester Street.
 9 MAYOR MCGINTY: Didn't I speak
 10 with you?
 11 MS. RISKIN: Yes. We have a
 12 petition we are passing around. We
 13 have already collected 6,000
 14 signatures against the turbines. We
 15 need everybody's signatures in this
 16 room to help build it even more. We
 17 are shooting for 10,000, and if we
 18 can go higher, more to it for us.
 19 Please sign the petitions as they
 20 come through. Thank you.
 21 MS. SERAFIN: Jennifer Serafin,
 22 107 Neptune Boulevard, Long Beach,
 23 New York. I wanted to thank you,
 24 Mr. McGinty, because I do believe
 25 that you do -- whatever happened,

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 however you got into this, I do
 3 believe that you have gotten here and
 4 you are doing great things for the
 5 community. I want to thank the
 6 Congressman and the Senator. I have
 7 spoken to both of them. Thank you so
 8 much for being on board with this,
 9 because this is what we need. I do
 10 believe that we have been at the City
 11 Council meetings in Long Beach since
 12 March, and when that first home rule
 13 (inaudible), we contacted the
 14 Senator's office. She told us the
 15 truth. We have been told that she is
 16 playing politics with us from the
 17 beginning. I have gone up at every
 18 meeting and told the Council that,
 19 and they keep telling me I don't know
 20 what I'm talking about, basically,
 21 and that the home rule was a big
 22 joke. I kneed to know how -- they're
 23 not basically -- they just say they
 24 do nothing and nothing will happen,
 25 and none of us trust that. We

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 haven't trusted that from the
 3 beginning, that they have the power
 4 and we will be fine. That's why we
 5 are at every meeting.
 6 At this point, because they
 7 basically told us -- and we didn't
 8 trust it from the beginning -- they
 9 told us that the home rule is fine,
 10 it's fine, because they are in
 11 control. And we keep telling them
 12 no, no, that's not what the
 13 politicians are telling us. And they
 14 keep saying, no, no, they are playing
 15 with you. They are playing politics
 16 with you. You talked to them and you
 17 don't know what you are talking
 18 about. Every meeting, I get up there
 19 and I say, well, why did this happen,
 20 and they run me in a circle.
 21 At this point, because we have
 22 told them as our constituents they
 23 did not do what their people wanted,
 24 what can we do next, basically?
 25 SEN. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 Thank you for your comments. I have
 3 watched the Long Beach public council
 4 meetings on occasion, and it's
 5 refreshing to see that you are
 6 speaking up on my behalf, and I do
 7 appreciate it.
 8 Right now, City Council does
 9 has to wait for the Governor to sign
 10 this bill, which hasn't happened yet.
 11 They are acting as if they have local
 12 control. They don't have it just
 13 yet. If the Governor signs the bill,
 14 then everybody has to go up to Long
 15 Beach City Council meetings and make
 16 sure that they vote no, because some
 17 of your Council members in Long Beach
 18 have indicated that this was an
 19 opportunity to negotiate. And that,
 20 to me, indicates that they are in
 21 favor of this if they get enough
 22 money. As you have heard here,
 23 Equinor has not been transparent,
 24 they've lied to us repeatedly about
 25 how this is going to be done. If



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 this had been a different company
 3 with somebody that did this the right
 4 way, we might not be in this uproar
 5 right now. But we don't want Equinor
 6 to be our neighbor because they can't
 7 be trusted and they are not doing
 8 what they are supposed to be doing --
 9 talking to the community about our
 10 concerns. So your first step is to
 11 write to the Governor and tell her
 12 not to sign the bill.
 13 Second, if she does sign the
 14 bill, you've got to go to your City
 15 Council. If they happen to approve
 16 it, then we are going to have another
 17 issue on our hands and then we'll
 18 have other litigation regarding home
 19 rule.
 20 MS. SERAFIN: So we just keep
 21 going in cycles --
 22 SEN. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:
 23 One step as a time, that's what I
 24 believe we have to do, and explore
 25 our legal avenues at each stop.

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 MS. SERAFIN: We don't want it
 3 at all. We don't want the cables.
 4 We don't want the project, but I
 5 guess we still have to go one step at
 6 a time?
 7 SEN. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:
 8 That's my understanding, and as I
 9 said, we are doing everything we can
 10 at every level of government to stop
 11 it.
 12 FEMALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible)
 13 Ashton Avenue. I thank everybody for
 14 doing everything you do.
 15 MR. NAUDUS: Frank Naudus, 227
 16 Harrison Avenue. Thank you for doing
 17 everything you do to make this happen
 18 right away. One of the properties
 19 listed as an affected property
 20 belongs to our family. We haven't
 21 had no contact at all, you know,
 22 nothing about what that means. Does
 23 anybody know what that means?
 24 MAYOR MCGINTY: Are you
 25 referring to the transmission line

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 anticipated to go through?
 3 MR. NAUDUS: Yes.
 4 MAYOR MCGINTY: They have done
 5 soil borings on the Long Island
 6 Railroad property because we will not
 7 permit them to do anything on our
 8 property. But that's as much as know
 9 right now.
 10 MR. NAUDUS: We don't know
 11 anything about affected property?
 12 MAYOR MCGINTY: No, sir.
 13 MS. KRAMER: Good evening,
 14 everybody. Christina Kramer, 361
 15 East Broadway, Long Beach, New York.
 16 First of all, thank you to Anthony
 17 D'Esposito, Patricia Canzoneri-
 18 Fitzpatrick, and also to Mayor
 19 McGinty and Ari Brown. They have
 20 been coming to all the resident's
 21 presentation and getting a handle on
 22 this and we appreciate that.
 23 Senator, I have a question. I
 24 want to follow up on what Ms. Serafin
 25 asked. Can you please confirm to the

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 residents, because there has been
 3 conflicting information -- was Long
 4 Beach protected without home rule as,
 5 like, parkland status? Was that the
 6 best position they could have been
 7 in? By Long Beach asking for home
 8 rule, requesting you to make that
 9 bill to alienate that property, was
 10 that a Pandora's box, so to speak,
 11 that would possibly allow danger to
 12 come into our community? I would
 13 like to hear you say it, because when
 14 I say it, people don't believe me.
 15 SEN. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: My
 16 assessment of that is you are
 17 accurate. If they had not requested
 18 the home rule to alienate that
 19 parkland, we would not be here.
 20 Well, I take that back. Equinor
 21 could go around Long Beach. They
 22 would not be able to go through the
 23 beach. But by requesting that home
 24 rule, they did, in fact, invite the
 25 opportunity for the state legislature



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 -- they requested the legislature to
 3 approve the alienation of that
 4 parkland, which allows them to decide
 5 whether or not -- if I had never
 6 requested that, it would not be going
 7 through Long Beach.
 8 MS. KRAMER: Can I follow up
 9 what you said to Jennifer? If
 10 Governor Hochul approves that bill
 11 that's been flip-flop requested and
 12 then Kevin Parker stole your bill and
 13 got that bill passed that's sitting
 14 on Hochul's desk, if she signs that
 15 bill, is it done? Or does now our
 16 City Council have to approve that
 17 bill, and can they deny that bill and
 18 make it stop there, so they don't get
 19 home rule and then the parkland would
 20 remain state parkland protected as if
 21 home rule was never requested?
 22 SEN. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:
 23 Let me just clarify. The home rule
 24 has already been requested from my
 25 bill. That bill is still setting.

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 The bill that was passed by both
 3 houses, the Senate and the Assembly,
 4 has not been sent to the Governor for
 5 signature yet so it's not on her desk
 6 yet. It likely will be between now
 7 and the end of the year. It has to
 8 be sent to her. When it gets to her
 9 desk, if she approves it, that is
 10 granting the home rule request and
 11 tells Long Beach City Council you
 12 have the right to decide whether or
 13 not to alienate that parkland, which
 14 allows an easement, allows
 15 transmission lines to come under the
 16 beach, and that's what they will be
 17 deciding on -- do we decide the
 18 parkland, the beachfront to be
 19 alienated? If they vote no, there is
 20 no way to alienate that parkland
 21 legally. They cannot take it by
 22 eminent domain. There has been no
 23 case in New York State where an
 24 eminent domain situation overruled a
 25 local community that voted no on

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 parkland alienation.
 3 MS. KRAMER: Okay. Just one
 4 clarification. That bill's not going
 5 to go back to Long Beach and then
 6 they accept home rule. If she okayed
 7 it, they now have it?
 8 SEN. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:
 9 Correct. If the Governor signs it,
 10 Long Beach City Council has the
 11 authority -- they did their part by
 12 requesting home rule. And if she
 13 says, okay, you got your home rule,
 14 now you get to decide.
 15 MS. KRAMER: I know my time is
 16 up. Last thing -- if you are doing
 17 your part to hold up the process by
 18 stopping the permits, not letting
 19 them soil bore, et cetera, Long Beach
 20 is giving them permits. Can we
 21 somehow speak as neighbors? We are
 22 in this together, Island Park, Long
 23 Beach. If we can stop it, you can
 24 stop it. It can be stopped. Can we
 25 start working together and talk to

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 the City Council and try to get them
 3 to stop permitting and stop doing
 4 everything and hold up all the
 5 ordinances? You guys all have the
 6 power. Those people don't listen to
 7 us. It's clear. We were at that
 8 March 2nd meeting where we begged
 9 them not to do the home rule. If
 10 they are not listening to us, maybe
 11 they'll listen better to you people.
 12 SEN. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:
 13 Some of the members of the Long Beach
 14 City Council, we cannot tell them
 15 what to do. We can advise them. We
 16 can suggest. But you as residents of
 17 Long Beach City Council have to speak
 18 to your council and tell them to
 19 represent your interests. And I
 20 think you have been doing a pretty
 21 good job of going up there at each
 22 meeting. That petition needs to go
 23 in. I can't tell you how to get them
 24 to listen, but that's what you need
 25 to do.



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 MS. KRAMER: Everybody please
 3 join our page, "Protect Our Coast
 4 LINY." Thank you.
 5 MS. ADELSON: Hard to follow.
 6 Fran Adelson, 100 Baker Court. I
 7 moved to Island Park, Baker Court,
 8 two months ago. I lived in Long
 9 Beach for 35 years, moved to Arizona,
 10 and just moved back. I chose to move
 11 back. I almost didn't. I started to
 12 learn about Equinor. I did a lot of
 13 research on my own. I want to thank
 14 you all for being here. I actually
 15 feel more relieved, having come to
 16 this meeting and listening to all
 17 your concerns and hear you talking
 18 about what you are actually doing for
 19 the people of Island Park. I wish
 20 that Long Beach, as Christine said,
 21 would do the same for those people.
 22 But I really -- my biggest
 23 frustration, when I was living in
 24 Arizona and I heard about this and I
 25 started to do some research, there

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 was no information out there. But I
 3 started to do research on my own on
 4 what is going on. We know that there
 5 are people here who feel that
 6 Facebook is not necessarily the place
 7 to get information, but that's where
 8 I got all my information. That's
 9 where everything started. You go to
 10 Equinor, you listen to Equinor speak
 11 in Island Park, and you don't learn
 12 anything. So I'm asking you, all of
 13 you, and I would ask Long Beach and
 14 everybody else to please put out as
 15 much information to the public as you
 16 can. This was great, Mayor McGinty.
 17 I didn't know what you were going to
 18 say. Quite honestly, I came here
 19 with a whole different attitude than
 20 I have now, because I really -- no,
 21 seriously. I knew about the letter
 22 and all this, but hearing you do
 23 that, speak the way you're speaking,
 24 hearing everybody speak the way
 25 they're speaking, you know, better

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 (inaudible). So thank you. Whatever
 3 you can do to help the people that
 4 are getting the word out get more of
 5 the word out would be fantastic.
 6 Thanks again.
 7 MS. DALTON: I'm the last one,
 8 I think. Veronica Dalton, 141
 9 Madison Avenue. I just wanted to say
 10 thank you. I didn't have anything
 11 prepared. I raced here from a
 12 funeral, actually, but it was
 13 important for me to be here. I
 14 missed a couple of meetings and have
 15 been out of the loop, but I did hear
 16 about them. I try to keep up to
 17 date. And again, I just want to say
 18 thank you very much for the showing,
 19 thank you for the public statement
 20 saying that you are against it. I
 21 have personally made several calls to
 22 Bruce Blakeman. No response. No
 23 statement. Don't know where he
 24 stands. And I feel like -- I'm
 25 hearing that there was a

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 representative. It would be nice to
 3 hear from our government, just like
 4 you did, to say that he stands with
 5 us. I mean, that support -- this is
 6 a difficult battle and I don't
 7 understand why he's holding back.
 8 Also, I don't know if this is
 9 possible -- somebody else touched
 10 upon this before about the electronic
 11 board. Even though it's very nice to
 12 see this many people here, there are
 13 many people who didn't know about the
 14 meeting, and I, too, would volunteer
 15 what I can, when I can. I would do
 16 what I can to get the word out,
 17 because that's how important it is.
 18 If I need to learn how to enter
 19 something on the keyboard, I will do
 20 it. I'm willing to do it. Someone
 21 even mentioned putting flyers on
 22 pizza boxes. Let's do what we can.
 23 People have made petitions. There
 24 are thousands of signatures, and they
 25 have spent hours, countless hours --



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 I can't even imagine how long it took
 3 them to gather all this information
 4 and the facts. I have learned so
 5 much and am still learning. But
 6 there are people again, who are not
 7 on social media, who don't answer the
 8 door when you knock on their door.
 9 I've gone to Avalon, into the
 10 community Avalon. Everyone in that
 11 community told me they knew nothing
 12 about it, and each one of them said
 13 they would never had purchased.
 14 And what happened? I mean,
 15 Equinor said that they notified.
 16 They sent letters. Where are the
 17 letters going? They said they
 18 performed surveys? Who performed
 19 that survey? Where is that survey?
 20 Are they supposed to provide that to
 21 us? "Here is the survey that we
 22 conducted." They said that people
 23 were in favor of it. Who? What
 24 people? I don't think so. There is
 25 so much more. But if you'd like to

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 sign a petition, I'll come right up
 3 to the table right now.
 4 MALE SPEAKER: I know you
 5 mentioned (inaudible) and I know
 6 she's not here. She retired. She is
 7 not going to be our county
 8 representative. We need more
 9 representatives (inaudible).
 10 MS. KRAMER: She needs to come
 11 to the meetings at the school. Yes.
 12 Thank you very much. I did wander
 13 off, too. Thank you.
 14 MR. FABRIS: Chris Fabris, 134
 15 Atlantic Place South, Island Park.
 16 Thank you so much for your positions
 17 and standing up. Quick story and a
 18 point, and this is factual. I have
 19 been involved in several
 20 environmental organizations
 21 throughout Long Island for many
 22 years. About four years ago. I was
 23 invited on a call, an Equinor call.
 24 It was a Zoom call. Looking at all
 25 the names that were there. And one

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 of the last persons to speak was
 3 Benno (phonetic). This was before
 4 Pop's was actually announced as a
 5 substation. On that call, it was the
 6 idea, the rumor was circulating. And
 7 the tone of his voice was angry, and
 8 he basically said, "I don't
 9 understand. We have been working on
 10 a big bayfront project and we don't
 11 want that substation to block our
 12 view."
 13 Now, back to a point. Earlier,
 14 someone said the city's got no money.
 15 Where do they get the money for this
 16 big bay project? I don't trust them,
 17 and you shouldn't. Nobody should.
 18 Hopefully there can be a meeting of
 19 the minds and you guys can maybe
 20 influence Long Beach, because
 21 something is happening under the
 22 table where something is being funded
 23 and they are being influenced to push
 24 the project through, and if we are
 25 50 percent of the deal, they are 50

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 percent of the deal, and we've got to
 3 influence them somehow, some way.
 4 And the other quick point is, I
 5 drew up a proposal. In the event
 6 that this is a fight that they are
 7 going to win -- which hopefully it
 8 never will be -- the least line of
 9 defense, the least contact the public
 10 would be -- and this is a fantasy --
 11 if it had to happen, that Equinor
 12 would lease land from the Town of
 13 Hempstead for 20 years, because the
 14 windmills only last 20 years. Go
 15 under Nickerson Beach, go underneath
 16 the golf course, go right up
 17 Reynold's Channel, take all the
 18 landfill, take that down and make
 19 that the substation. It's already
 20 elevated a ways from everybody. In
 21 the event that we have to push for
 22 it, that should be the only option we
 23 give them. Thank you again. You
 24 guys are great.
 25 MS. ROTHMAN: Debra Rothman,



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
2 154 McKinley Avenue, Island Park.
3 Question. The last -- I think it was
4 the last Long Beach City Council
5 meeting, the Council put Island Park
6 under the bus by stating that Island
7 Park Village met with Equinor and
8 consented them with their community
9 benefits list. Could you address
10 that?

11 MAYOR MCGINTY: In context, at
12 that time, whether it was one school
13 district or the other school
14 district, or the City of Long Beach
15 or the Town of Hempstead or the
16 County of Nassau or the Village of
17 Island Park, each municipality
18 presented a list, a schedule. To
19 this date, no one has pursued it,
20 both from our perspective nor from
21 their perspective. Again, it was
22 early in the process. Each passing
23 day, we learn more and more and more.
24 And not one day passes where we get a
25 piece of good news. So as far as we

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
2 are concerned -- but yes.

3 MS. ROTHMAN: But they did not
4 say that they gave it, they said that
5 you gave it, and the community of
6 Long Beach should come here and
7 complain to you.

8 MAYOR MCGINTY: I can tell you
9 that if you look around the audience,
10 any number of Long Beach residents
11 have called me and commented on that,
12 and I have told them the same thing.
13 Here is the letter. You know, the
14 infamous letter. I can't --
15 personally, I can't speak for the
16 board, but personally, you know how I
17 feel. I can't go any further than
18 that.

19 CONGRESSMAN D'ESPOSITO: Just
20 to add to that point, early on --
21 late last year or early this year,
22 one of the biggest concerns and one
23 of the biggest complaints that
24 everyone had was community benefits.
25 Right? We all thought this was

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
2 already a foregone conclusion, this
3 was going to be put forward. What's
4 the community benefit? It's one of
5 the things I mentioned when we
6 started. It's one of the things --
7 they got a front page Newsday article
8 about this big \$260 million community
9 benefit package. I've been on tons
10 of phone calls where they keep
11 touting this. It's not a community
12 benefit package. It's the cost of
13 doing business.

14 As a municipality -- I'm not
15 speaking for the Village, but I have
16 had conversations with them -- you
17 can't, early on in the process,
18 complain about not being transparent
19 about community benefits when you
20 don't submit a proposal about
21 infrastructure in this community.
22 What they asked for was a plan the
23 Village had over the next ten years.
24 What the plans that the Village had.
25 Infrastructure, dead ends, streets,

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
2 drainage. That's what they asked
3 about.

4 The Village did the right thing
5 by submitting it. Just because
6 Equinor would have responded and
7 said, yeah, we'll pay for that whole
8 bill, doesn't mean that the Village
9 was going to budge. They did their
10 due diligence to make sure that
11 Equinor had what the Village was
12 planning to do over the next ten
13 years. It's very hard to argue with
14 a \$100 billion company about not
15 being transparent when, if the
16 Village is not going to propose some
17 sort of project for them to actually
18 respond to. Clearly it's not
19 important to them, because it's been
20 three months and they haven't said a
21 word. The last conversation the
22 Village had with Equinor was that the
23 person who handles it is on vacation.
24 So apparently they are still in
25 Norway, because we haven't heard from



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 them.
 3 And one last thing I want to
 4 point out, and I know that this is
 5 the last speaker. I said in the
 6 beginning that the only way we are
 7 going to get through this is by
 8 working together. I'm not here to
 9 defend anyone and I'm not here to
 10 point fingers. At this point, we've
 11 got to work together. Those of you
 12 that are from Long Beach, you have to
 13 hope -- and let's give them the
 14 benefit of the doubt -- that the City
 15 of Long Beach and the City Council is
 16 going to do the right thing. They
 17 wanted home rule, they got a senator
 18 and an assemblyperson from Brooklyn
 19 to put forth that home rule. The
 20 Governor is probably going to sign
 21 that home rule because she is the one
 22 who wanted it. Give them the benefit
 23 of the doubt until that's in front of
 24 the City Council and they don't do
 25 what you guys want. I just really

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 believe that Equinor is, without a
 3 doubt, watching this right now, and
 4 all they want to do is divide and
 5 conquer. If we don't stick together
 6 -- and I'm not saying continue to be
 7 upfront, continue to speak about it,
 8 continue to tell your elected
 9 representatives how you feel -- but
 10 let's be on the same page and be
 11 cheerleaders for one another and root
 12 each other on and make sure we are a
 13 unified front. The more that we have
 14 division and the more that we are
 15 fighting and the more that they see
 16 City Council, Village Board, town
 17 board or people fighting, they are
 18 going to make their way into those
 19 small networks and they are going to
 20 do their best to divide and conquer.
 21 Listen, the things that are in
 22 the past, they're in the past. We
 23 know the facts. We know what
 24 happened. We know where the home
 25 rule is. Like I said, apparently

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 they were confused with Kings
 3 Pharmacy and Kings Highway. We will
 4 get past it. What we have to do now
 5 is we have to hope for the best. You
 6 guys that live in Long Beach, you are
 7 the ones that call the city of Long
 8 Beach home, you are the ones that are
 9 advocating for your neighbors, you
 10 are the ones that are talking to your
 11 elected officials. Talk to them and
 12 give them the opportunity to hear you
 13 and do what's right. We did. We had
 14 a meeting with the City Council. Not
 15 all of them were there, but the ones
 16 that were there, it seemed to me they
 17 were against the project. I don't
 18 want to quote them, but it seemed
 19 that they understood where people
 20 were coming from. I can only tell
 21 what they told me. What's in their
 22 head, I don't know. I'm telling you
 23 that when we sat down with them, we
 24 all -- Patricia, myself and Ari --
 25 disagreed with that whole home rule

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 thing, and I still disagree. And
 3 I've said that from day one, if the
 4 concern was that the state would come
 5 in and do eminent domain, there is no
 6 way that the Governor would have
 7 brought back the Assembly after
 8 session was pretty over to pass this
 9 bill if it wasn't so important to
 10 her. She wouldn't have gotten two
 11 people from Brooklyn to put it
 12 through if it wasn't so important to
 13 her. You can say whatever you want.
 14 You can say it's done all the time.
 15 You can say that any Senator or
 16 member of the Assembly in the entire
 17 state has the right to put forth a
 18 bill. That's all true. But in order
 19 to put a home rule bill, you need
 20 authorization from your local
 21 municipality. The fact is, Senator
 22 Parker, the last time I checked, did
 23 not have any authorization from local
 24 government.
 25 Whatever the case may be, the



1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23
 2 only way to get past this, the only
 3 way to move forward and the only way
 4 to make sure these people don't
 5 destroy our communities is to stick
 6 together. I urge you and plead with
 7 you to do that.

8 SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

9 CONGRESSMAN D'ESPOSITO: No.

10 SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

11 SEN. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:

12 It's going to depend on when the
 13 Governor signs the bill. If the
 14 Governor signs the bill, then after
 15 the election, then your new board
 16 will have the right to decide whether
 17 or not to alienate the property.

18 MAYOR MCGINTY: If there are no
 19 more public comments, we will end the
 20 meeting. We deeply appreciate your
 21 attention and we will keep fighting.
 22 Thank you.

23 (Time noted: 7:40 p.m.)
 24
 25

1 COMMUNITY HEARING -- 07/14/23

2 C E R T I F I C A T E
 3

4 I, MARCI GLOTZER, a Shorthand Reporter and
 5 Notary Public within and for the State of New
 6 York, do hereby certify that I reported the
 7 proceedings in the Community Hearing for
 8 Equinor's Empire Offshore Wind Project on
 9 July 14, 2023, and that this is an accurate
 10 transcription of what transpired at that time
 11 and place.



12
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 14 MARCI GLOTZER
 15 Shorthand Reporter
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