

gl 7-17-17

Hampton Bays Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes
April 19, 2017

Members Present: Margaret Campbell, Ray D'Angelo, Bruce Doscher, Michael Dunn, Mary Egan, Paula Godfrey, Gayle Lombardi, Terrance McGrath, Tom Mulrooney, Adam Ortiz, Joseph Ruggieri, Kevin Springer, ~~Simon Scott~~, Zeb Youngman

Simon Scott gl
7-17-17

Members Absent: Eric Sutton, Maureen Sutton

Elected Officials: none

Guests: various

Pledge of Allegiance

Gayle Lombardi noted that there was a quorum of members present Kevin Springer reported that Councilperson Glinka's father passed away.

Action Item 2017-3

Approval for the Chairperson(s) to execute letter to Town Board to follow up on recommendations made in January 31, 2017 letter to Town Board (Attachment1) Moved by Mary Egan, Seconded by Margaret Campbell; Passed unanimously.

Action Item 2017-4

Approval for the Chairpersons(s) to execute letter to Town Board regarding population and school density and BOE letters (Attachment 2) - Moved by Tom Mulrooney; Seconded by Gayle Lombardi; Passed unanimously

Action Item 2017-5

Approval for Chairperson(s) to execute letter to Town Board addressing concerns regarding the Town Supervisor being appointed as the Police Commissioner (Attachment 3) – Moved by Gayle Lombardi, Seconded by Kevin Springer, Motion passed 13-1-0.

Action Item 2017-6

The members unanimously authorized Gayle Lombardi to facilitate for the following guest presenters. Additional discussion included that these presentations include the discussion on how to disseminate information to the community at large.

- Police Chief Skrynecki – a Q&A meeting

- **Ryan Horn – the role and responsibilities of the Citizen Response Center**
- **Kyle Collins and/or Janice Sherer – the proposed changed in zoning on the Montauk Highway corridor including the effect of the “Form Based Code” on the commercial buildings between Squiretown Road and Springville Road.**
- **Marc Fasanella, Ecological Cultural Center – to discuss the Squiretown Park Project**

Action Item 2017-7

Ray D’Angelo moved that the HB CAC should authorize the Chairpersons(s) to contact the Southampton Town Attorney to obtain clarification for the Town Board’s role and responsibility for the selection of the Library Board under NYS Education Law Section 260, paragraph 2, or any other New York State Law Code Section governing self-appointed Boards for Public Libraries. Seconded by Gayle Lombardi; Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 2017-8

Gayle Lombardi moved that the HB CAC authorize the Chairpersons(s) to contact the Hampton Bays Library and the Southampton Town Board to determine if the Library Board has legal authority to hose an international Consulate at a public library funded by the taxpayers of the Hampton Bays Library District. Seconded b Ray D’Angelo Motion passed unanimously.

Action 2017-9

Joe Ruggieri moved that the HB CAC authorize the Chairpersons(s) to contact the Town Board and Town Attorney to obtain the status and explanation of the following ongoing issues: Seconded by Mike Dunn Motion passed unanimously

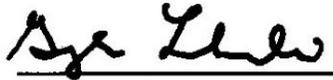
- **Tiana Pines - The CAC is wondering why another adjournment scheduled for April 25th has taken place in regard to the Tiana Pines appeal. This has been going on since November of 2013. Please provide an explanation why this is continuing for 3 1/2 years.**
- **Belaire Cove – (a) CCHB provided the Town with water test results around September 2016 showing contaminants in the Penny Pond creek behind the Belaire Cove motel on Shinnecock Road. CCHB was told, and informed the CAC, that the Town said that a dye test was going to be performed within 4-6 weeks. To date, the Town has not informed the CAC. or to the best of our knowledge, the CCHB of any results. Furthermore, we at the CAC find it discouraging that the Town Board has represented themselves as champions of water quality appears to have not addressed this issue. (b) Additionally, the Town appears to continue to ignore the issue of the unpermitted use of this motel as full time apartments, contrary to its permitted use.**

New Business/General Discussions:

The members and guests discussed the ongoing issues of the quality of life issues facing Hampton Bays including higher than average school taxes, lack of proactive code enforcement including the enforcement of licensed contractors, homeless camps and conditions of the public property.

Meeting Adjourned 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



**Gayle Lombardi
Secretary**

9-3-17

A T T (1)

May 1, 2017

Supervisor Schneiderman
Councilperson Bouvier
Councilperson Glinka
Councilperson Lofstad
Councilperson Scalera
VIA EMAIL

Re: Hampton Bays Citizens Advisory Committee Recommendations

Dear Town Board Members:

On January 31, 2017, the Hampton Bays Citizens Advisory Committee ("HBCAC") forwarded a letter to the Town Board (a copy attached for your reference) outlining various concerns regarding the inefficient and ineffective relationship between the Town Board and the community at large in Hampton Bays. These issues were discussed at the Town Board meeting of February 14, 2017 by the HBCAC Secretary, Gayle Lombardi, reiterated at the HBCAC meeting on February 15, 2017 with Councilpersons Lofstad and Scalera and again discussed at the Town Board Work Session of February 16, 2017.

To the best of our knowledge, the issues we raised have not been resolved and we believe without resolution will continue to have an adverse effect on the quality of life and the economic vitality of Hampton Bays.

1A. Role of the Hampton Bays Citizens Advisory Committee

We acknowledge that there were preliminary discussions about the role and responsibility of the HBCAC at the February 16, 2017 Town Board Work Session. However, as of today's date, we are not aware of any further progress regarding this issue. We believe that it does a disservice to both the Town Board and the Hampton Bays community at large not to have one official cohesive interface with the Town Board and the Hampton Bays community. The HBCAC is not and should not be considered another self-formed "association". We recognize our role and accept the responsibility to facilitate better communication between the Town Board and the Hampton Bays community at large.

1B. Role of the Hampton Bays Economic Development Committee

We believe that the Hampton Bays Economic Development Committee ("HBEDC") continues to be an ineffective committee tasked with the economic revitalization of Hampton Bays. The Town Board has approved and expended millions of dollars of taxpayer funds for the revitalization of Hampton Bays. However, the HBCAC raises the issue as to whether or not the taxpayer monies approved and expended will actually have a positive impact on the economic vitality of Hampton Bays compensatory with the amount of monies that have been approved and expended. To the best of our knowledge, there is no Hampton Bays Economic Revitalization Plan which would lay out a comprehensive plan and includes such generally accepted performance metrics such as private sector funds leveraged, quality jobs created, local revenue generated, tax base created, etc. Instead, it appears that the HBEDC is implementing recommendations from a decade old master plan and corridor study that may or may not result in the economic revitalization of Hampton Bays. It is discouraging to the HBCAC that the Town Board has approved and expended millions of dollars for projects that may not result in the economic revitalization of Hampton Bays. We strongly encourage the Town Board to take the necessary steps to merge the HBEDC into the HBCAC to form a cohesive advisory committee. We recognize our role to interface with the Town Board and the community at large and will work with the Town Board to obtain input from subject matter experts with experience in economic revitalization and business development. If this cannot be achieved, we strongly recommend that the HBEDC be reconfigured to include

subject matter experts in the field of economic and business development including lending institutions, utilities, and real estate professionals and code and law enforcement.

2. Accurate and Complete Information to the Community

We continue to request that the Community Project Portal or similar Town site be updated on a regular basis to provide information to the community at-large. This portal should be easily accessible and visible to residents and taxpayers. We also respectfully request that the Town Board have regularly scheduled Town Hall meetings potentially instead of the local Town Board meeting so that residents can have a forum to have an interactive conversation with the Town Board. The Town Board and other Town officials should not rely on self-organized "associations" for such meetings. Residents of Hampton Bays should not be forced to be a member of an association to know what the Town Board is doing or considering in the Hampton Bays community. We respectfully request that the HBCAC and Town Board work together to coordinate guest speakers such as the Police Chief to address the community at large.

3. Two-way communication

We acknowledge that the Town government is implementing an on-line complaint portal. We recognize that this will better facilitate and control the residents' complaints. However, based on past experience, it is the resolution of the complaints that has been an issue with the residents of Hampton Bays. We reserve any further comments on this issue until the on-line complaint portal is live tested.

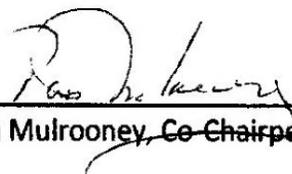
4. Advertisement of Meetings

We acknowledge that the HBCAC meeting dates have been added to the Town website. We will continue to work with the Town for additional meeting notification opportunities.

We are looking forward to the implementation of these action items to aid you in your efforts to better Hampton Bays. We are indebted to you for your service.

Sincerely,

The Hampton Bays Citizens Advisory Committee

By: 
Tom Mulrooney, Co-Chairperson


Kevin Springer, Co-Chairperson

- cc: Sundy Schermeyer, Southampton Town Clerk
- Frank Zappone, Assistant Town Supervisor
- Connie Conway, Chief of Staff
- President, Hampton Bays Beautification
- President, Hampton Bays Chamber of Commerce
- President, Hampton Bays Civic Association
- President, Concerned Citizens of Hampton Bays
- President, Hampton Bays Historic and Preservation Society
- Superintendent, Hampton Bays School District

January 31, 2017

Supervisor Schneiderman
Councilperson Bouvier
Councilperson Glinka
Councilperson Lofstad
Councilperson Scalera
VIA EMAIL

COPY

Re: Hampton Bays CAC

Dear Town Board Members:

The Hampton Bays Citizens Advisory Committee ("HBCAC") recognizes the importance placed in the HBCAC by the Southampton Town Board ("Board") as the officially appointed liaison between the Board and the Hampton Bays community. We believe there is a benefit, for both the Southampton Town government ("Town") and the Hampton Bays community at-large for there to be one cohesive direct conduit between the Town and the Hampton Bays community. As you are aware, Hampton Bays is the largest population center within Southampton and possesses the most diverse community and challenges.

We believe the action items requested of the Board below will enhance and streamline the relationship and communication between the Town and the Hampton Bays community at-large. The responsibility of the HBCAC is, and will continue to, remain unbiased in its composition; work with the Town to fairly and aggressively disseminate information between the Town and the community at-large on Town-initiated projects; and formulate a Hampton Bays agenda and priorities representative of the entire community

1. HBCAC Role

As the HBCAC is the officially sanctioned liaison, we believe it is important that any other committees that have been established or will be established solely for the benefit of Hampton Bays by the Board be part of the HBCAC (potentially as a subcommittee) including, but not limited to the Hampton Bays Economic Development Committee. This will ensure a cohesive interface with the Town and the Hampton Bays community.

To this end, we respectfully request that the separate Economic Development Committee meeting currently scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2017 be re-scheduled to be part of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the HBCAC meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Hampton Bays Library. Additionally, we respectfully request that the Economic Development Committee be re-established as a sub-committee of the HBCAC and all future meetings are coordinated with the HBCAC meetings.

Lastly, we believe that all other associations in Hampton Bays, such as the Hampton Bays Chamber of Commerce and Hampton Bays Civic Association, be fully represented on the HBCAC. To this end, we are sending a copy of this letter to their leadership. We respectfully request that the Board support this initiative and appoint a representative of each of the associations to the HBCAC if not already represented.

2. Accurate and Complete Information to the Community

The HBCAC believes that there is a need to "get out the message" to our community directly from the Town. The Town developed the Community Project Portal, but the Portal lacks pertinent and timely information regarding the community projects including but not limited to budgets, actual expenditures, and project status. We respectfully request that the Community Project Portal or similar Town site be updated on a regular basis to provide information to the community at-large.

3. Two-way communication

We respectfully request that the Town develop and implement an interactive portal (possibly through the Community Projects Portal), where residents can post comments and questions to be addressed by the Town and potentially visible to other residents. Based on the electronic interaction that occurred by residents for the Ponquogue Pavilion re-design and Main Street Overlay District, it is apparent that residents are interested in the Town projects, but cannot always attend the meetings.

4. Advertisement of Meetings

As an official committee of the Town, we respectfully request that the Town advertises the upcoming meetings including but limited to the date listed on the Town website in conjunction with the other upcoming Town Board and Committee meetings. We will work with the Town in the future for mailings, posters, etc.

We are looking forward to the implementation of these action items to aid you in your efforts to better Hampton Bays. We are indebted to you for your service.

Sincerely,

The Hampton Bays Citizens Advisory Committee

By Tom Mulrooney
Tom Mulrooney, Co-Chairperson

Kevin Springer
Kevin Springer, Co-Chairperson

cc: Sundy Schermeyer, Southampton Town Clerk
Frank Zappone, Assistant Town Supervisor
Connie Conway, Chief of Staff

President, Hampton Bays Beautification
President, Hampton Bays Chamber of Commerce
President, Hampton Bays Civic Association
President, Concerned Citizens of Hampton Bays
President, Hampton Bays Historic and Preservation Society
Superintendent, Hampton Bays School District

ATT (2)

May 1, 2017

Supervisor Schneiderman
Councilperson Bouvier
Councilperson Glinka
Councilperson Lofstad
Councilperson Scalera
VIA EMAIL

Re: HB CAC Support of Hampton Bays Union Free School District Correspondence to Town Board

Dear Town Board Members:

The Hampton Bays Citizens Advisory Committee ("HBCAC") obtained the following correspondence submitted to the Town Board from the Hampton Bays Union Free School District ("School District") via a FOIL request (correspondence attached for reference):

- Letter addressed to Mr. Jay Schneiderman, Southampton Town Supervisor, dated June 26, 2016 executed by Mr. Lars Clemensen, Superintendent of Schools, advising the Town Supervisor of the significant concerns of the School District as it relates to the concept of amending the accessory apartment code in the Town of Southampton. Mr. Clemensen's letter stated: "It has long been the position of the Hampton Bays Board of Education to oppose official decisions that allow for variance from existing zoning that could increase enrollment in the schools."
- Letter addressed to Mr. James Burke, Southampton Town Attorney, dated July 1, 2016 executed by David Shaw for the law firm of Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP, stating "The Hampton Bays UFSD Board of Education requests the current Southampton Town Board to immediately start enforcing land use throughout Hampton Bays at all motel, hotel, camps, cottages and bungalow locations to be used for their intended transient use."

The HBCAC strongly supports the positions in the above-mentioned correspondence and respectfully requests that the Town Board honors their requests. Additionally, the HBCAC respectfully requests an update of the enforcement of the land use violations noted in the letter from Shaw, Perelson, May, and Lambert, LLP.

The HBCAC echoes the position stated in Mr. Clemensen's letter that, in principle, we oppose any official decisions that allow for variances from existing zoning that could increase enrollment in the Schools. The Town Board is aware that the School District taxes account for more than 75% of the real property tax liability of the property owners in the School District while a "back of the envelope" calculation indicates that less than 20% of the residential property owners have children enrolled in the School District. It is a common economic

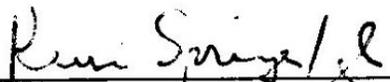
principle that when an area with higher taxes without corresponding higher services is surrounded by areas with lower taxes, the high tax area becomes less desirable. The Town Board is well aware of the concerns raised by the residents and property owners of the material adverse effect that the higher than average Hampton Bays School District taxes have had on the quality of life for the community at large in Hampton Bays.. The Town Board is also aware that Hampton Bays should be a cost effective desirable area for retirees, "empty nesters", vacation home owners and seasonal rentals to continue to provide a source of funding for the School District and the local businesses without increasing the enrollment in the School District.

To affect positive change in Hampton Bays, we respectfully request that the Town Board take any and all necessary steps to eliminate illegally overcrowded housing and eliminate the use of transient motels as permanent residences. Furthermore, the Town Board should not consider any variance from the current code or zoning that could increase the enrollment in the School.

We are looking forward to working with the Town Board to better Hampton Bays. We are indebted to you for your service.

The Hampton Bays Citizens Advisory Committee

BY 
Tom Mulrooney, Co-Chairperson


Kevin Springer, Co-Chairperson

cc: Ms. Sundy Schermeyer, Southampton Town Clerk
Mr. James Burke, Southampton Town Attorney
Mr. Lars Clemensen, Superintendent , Hampton Bays School District



HAMPTON BAYS

Union Free School District

Administrative Offices: 86 Argonne Road East, Hampton Bays, NY 11946 • Tel: (631) 723-2100 • Fax: (631) 723-2109

LARS CLEMENSEN
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

June 22, 2016

The Honorable Jay Schneiderman
Southampton Town Supervisor
Southampton Town Hall
116 Hampton Road
Southampton, NY 11964

Dear Supervisor Schneiderman

2016 JUN 27 AM 11:50

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

I write today to express significant concern regarding the concept of amending the accessory apartment code in the Town of Southampton. While an official proposal has not yet been presented for Town Board consideration, the conceptual framework as presented at numerous public events causes concern for the Board of Education.

It has long been the position of the Hampton Bays Board of Education to oppose official decisions that allow for variance from existing zoning that could increase enrollment in the schools. We face a significant challenge as we deliver the best education for our kids when one considers that our land represents roughly five percent of the Town's total assessed value, yet we educate roughly 25 percent of the town's students. From end to end in Southampton Town, the disparate land values create a difference of up to tens of thousands of dollars that are being invested per pupil between districts. This unequal tax responsibility burdens our taxpayers with a disproportionate cost of education, thus perpetuating a "tale of two Southamptons." We are concerned that a loosening of the accessory apartment provisions of the code will further exacerbate that problem.

As taxpayers ourselves, we appreciate the high-cost of living in this destination location and understand that it creates a barrier for young firefighters, EMTs, police officers, and emerging professionals attempting to gain a foothold in the community to build an adult life. However, this concept is a slippery slope for increasing density, further increasing enrollment in our schools, and aggravating our already delicate environmental condition.

In Hampton Bays, we have experienced consistent enrollment growth for more than 10 years, but over the past 10 months have seen our student enrollment plateau. This reality is finally to the benefit of our district, as we can now mitigate having one of the highest average class sizes, the lowest spending per pupil, and the highest tax rate in the Town. Now is not the time to amend the Town Code in a way that will increase density and enrollment again.

As you know, municipalities, including school districts, are subject to the Tax Levy Limit Law enacted by New York State in 2011. As a result, the ability of school districts to afford

increases in fixed costs and increases has been severely compromised and the formula does not take into account enrollment growth. For the 2016-17 school year, the tax levy limit formula was .12% (a far cry from the 2% popularly stated to be the cap amount in the absence of achieving a 60% override vote to allow for raising monies in excess of the cap).

The Hampton Bays Board of Education requests that the Southampton Town Board either revisit this concept or put forth a clear outline of what the proposal entails so that the public can officially comment. The Board of Education, as elected officials representing the district's taxpayers, strongly believe that it is their fiduciary responsibility to oppose proposals that would increase density in the Town of Southampton.

Your consideration of this position is appreciated and both the members of the Board of Education and I are available at your convenience to discuss this further.

Sincerely yours,



Lars Clemensen
Superintendent of Schools

CC: Hampton Bays Board of Education members *via email*
The Honorable Christine Scalera, Councilwoman
The Honorable Stan Glinka, Councilman
The Honorable John Bouvier, Councilman
The Honorable Julie Lofstad, Councilwoman
The Honorable Sundy Schermeyer, Town Clerk

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MARGO L. MAY
MICHAEL K. LAMBERT
MARC E. SHARFF
LISA S. RUSK
BETH L. SIMS
STEVEN M. LATINO
JULIE M. SHAW

GARRETT L. SILVEIRA
MEGAN A. SHEDDEN *
JENNIFER A. GEMMELL

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MARIA D. GILL **
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JOHN E. OSBORN
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* also admitted in New Jersey
** also admitted in Connecticut

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VALHALLA, NEW YORK 10595
(914) 741-9870
FAX (914) 741-9875

OFFICE OF SOUTHAMPTON

2016 JUL - 5 PM 1:15

RECEIVED

July 1, 2016

Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

Mr. James Burke
Southampton Town Attorney
Southampton Town Hall
116 Hampton Road
Southampton, NY 11964

Dear Mr. Burke:

We, as the attorneys for the Hampton Bays Union Free School District Board of Education ("Board of Education"), have been directed to write and raise an issue of critical concern regarding the duty owed by the Town of Southampton to the school community and residents of the Hampton Bays Union Free School District ("Hampton Bays UFSD" or "School District"). As you know, municipalities, including school districts, are subject to the Tax Levy Limit Law enacted by the New York State Legislature in 2011 that became effective for the 2012-13 School Year. As a result of that law, the ability of school districts to afford increases in fixed costs and increases due to unfunded State educational mandates has been severely compromised. For the 2016-17 School Year, the Consumer Price Index statistic that had to be applied to the tax levy limit formula was .12% (a far cry from the 2% popularly stated to be the cap amount in the absence of achieving a 60% override vote to allow for raising monies in excess of the cap). The Board of Education has done a remarkable job of fiscal management by achieving one of the lowest per pupil expenditure rates in Suffolk County. Considering that the Hampton Bays UFSD's land represents roughly five percent of the Town's total assessed value, yet the School District educates roughly 25 percent of the Town's students, it is clear that the unequal tax responsibility has burdened the School District's taxpayers with a disproportionate cost of educating children.

The anomaly of low per pupil expenditures and high taxes in the Hampton Bays UFSD is caused, in part, by a lack of local code enforcement. The illegal use of certain properties that are classified as either hotels, motels, camps, cottages, or bungalows is of major concern, as these properties are, by definition, intended to be transient in nature, as noted in Town Code and GEIS for Hampton Bays. It is well-known that many of these properties are currently being used for permanent residence. Please note that the definition for length of stay for Motels and Hotels is defined in Southampton Town Code 330-5 as, "Hotels and Motels" are to be transient in use. Transient is described as "daily or weekly". Weekly is defined as "Weekly, but not to exceed a month, by the same person in any calendar year". "Camps, cottages and Bungalows" are to be used on a seasonal basis as clearly described in Southampton Town's own and adopted GEIS statement for Hampton Bays.

The negative tax implications to the Hampton Bays UFSD based upon violations of these codes and misuse of the land is tremendous. The Southampton Town Government has been aware of this practice, with documentation, and has failed to fully and permanently address the blatant misuse of these properties. The practice of allowing such transient units to operate illegally and contrary to their intended use, as clearly described in the Town of Southampton's adopted GEIS for Hampton Bays, needs to be addressed and cease immediately. Additionally, of concern, is the use of single family homes for multiple family use, which is inconsistent with the Town Code and also contributes to higher taxes.

The Hampton Bays UFSD Board of Education requests the current Southampton Town Board to immediately start enforcing land use throughout Hampton Bays at all motel, hotel, camp, cottage and bungalow locations to be used for their intended transient use. An immediate transition of such properties will bring tangible results prior to the 2016-2017 school year. It is the Board of Education's strong belief that the proper use of all such locations would promote tourism, raise the assessed value and desirability of the community, and ultimately have the double benefit of lowering the tax rate while mitigating school enrollment density. The Board of Education of the Hampton Bays UFSD, as elected officials representing the School District's taxpayers, also strongly believe that it is their fiduciary and ethical responsibility to the tax payers to remedy this situation immediately.

Through this letter, the Board of Education seeks answers from the Town Board, the Town Supervisor and your office, on an expedited basis, regarding how the matters described above will be addressed. Your prompt attention to these matters would be appreciated.

While the Board of Education prefers a cooperative approach to resolve these issues, the Board will not hesitate to pursue legal recourse, if necessary, to ensure that the financial interests of the taxpayers of the Hampton Bays UFSD are addressed in a fair, equitable and expeditious matter.

Very truly yours,

SHAW, PERELSON, MAY & LAMBERT, LLP

BY: 

DAVID S. SHAW, ESQ.

Page 3

CC: The Honorable Jay Schneiderman, Town Supervisor
The Honorable Christine Scalera, Councilwoman
The Honorable Stan Glinka, Councilman
The Honorable John Bouvier, Councilman
The Honorable Julie Lofstad, Councilwoman
The Honorable Sundry Schermeyer, Town Clerk

The Honorable Anna Throne-Holst, Former Town Supervisor

The Honorable Bridget Fleming, Suffolk County Legislator and Former Councilwoman

The Honorable Christopher Nuzzi, Former Town Councilman

Ms. Tiffany Scarlato, Former Town Attorney

The Honorable Brad Bender, Former Town Councilman
Via email, brad@bradbender.com

The Honorable James Malone, Former Town Councilman

Hampton Bays Board of Education members

Mr. Lars Clemensen, Superintendent of Schools
Via email, lclemensen@hbschools.us

ATT (3)

April 25, 2017

Supervisor Schneiderman
Councilperson Bouvier
Councilperson Glinka
Councilperson Lofstad
Councilperson Scalera
VIA EMAIL

Re: HB CAC Letter in Lieu of Attendance at the Public Hearing Amending Town Code Chapter 19 As it Relates to the Duties and Designation of Police Commissioner

Dear Town Board Members:

As you are well aware, Hampton Bays is one of the most populous and diverse hamlets in the Town of Southampton. On many occasions, the Town Board members have heard that public safety and health issues are of paramount importance to the residents of Hampton Bays.

In reference to the above-mentioned proposed amendment, the Hampton Bays Citizens Advisory Committee ("HBCAC") opposes the proposal that the Town Supervisor be designated solely as the Police Commissioner and offers the following comments and concerns regarding the proposed amendment. These comments and concerns were raised, discussed and agreed upon by a quorum of members in attendance at the April 19, 2017 HBCAC meeting.

- We recognize that the position of Police Commissioner was established in 2006 and remains vacant. We further recognize that currently the Town Board members collectively have the responsibility and authority as "de facto" Police Commissioners without having the official title. This allows for the direct, accurate, and transparent interaction between the Police Chief and the collective Town Board members. The Town Board members were elected by the voters of the Town of Southampton to collectively serve the residents.
- The HBCAC members are unaware of any adverse effect on emergency response or any other police matter that occurred due to a deficiency under the current "chain of command". Therefore, the purpose of this proposal to solve a problem where none seems to exist appears to be "a solution in search of a problem".
- Furthermore, if the Police Commissioner position has not been filled for over 10 years and there is apparently no deficiency in the public safety of the residents, the Town Board may consider eliminating the position to clarify the current roles and responsibilities and chain of command.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Hampton Bays Citizens Advisory Committee

By: signed by:
Tom Mulrooney, Co-Chairperson

cc: Ms. Sundy Schermeyer, Town Clerk
For the Public Hearing Record