



March 2022 Newsletter

ALL IN-PERSON MEETING ATTENDEES MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED

**OUR NEXT
MEETING WILL BE
ON TUESDAY,
MARCH 8 AT
WESTBURY MANOR
STARTING AT
6:30 PM**

Nassau County
Legislature Presiding
Officer Rich Nicoletto and
Legislator Debra Mulè
will be speaking

[Click here for our 2021-2022
meeting schedule.](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear Colleagues:

In my February newsletter message, I criticized Governor Kathy Hochul's attempt to seize land use and zoning powers from local municipalities by including two zoning mandates in her proposed 2022 budget: Mandatory Accessory Housing and Mandatory Transit Oriented Development. This move ignited a firestorm of opposition as town, city and village leaders from across the State of New York contacted their state senators and assembly representatives to voice outrage and vehemently protest this unprecedented attempt to usurp local control. The NCVOA Executive Committee jumped into the fray, along with NYCOM and our Albany lobbyist John Kiernan. I understand many of our mayors also sent letters and emails expressing their opposition. We appreciate your making the effort to help preserve this critical tenet of village government.

It appears our voices were heard loud and clear as the governor announced she was removing these mandates from her proposed budget. I am a firm believer in giving

AT



*President Daniel Serota
Mayor of the Village of Brookville*

credit where credit is due. On one hand, I commend the governor for realizing she was wrong and quickly taking corrective action. On the other hand, I cannot fathom why she would attempt such an imprudent move in the first place. A former town clerk and councilwoman, she should have known better. As village officials, we all have learned (some of us the hard way) it is best to first reach out to your constituents to understand their perspectives before making important decisions.

While the governor has removed this initiative from her budget, it does not mean the concept is dead and we can relax. Two state legislators have introduced a bill with similar intent. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you apprised of any developments.

February Meeting Draws Large Attendance

It looks as if the budget controversy and the topic of our February General Membership meeting perfectly aligned, generating an impressive attendance of 85 members, Friends of the NCVOA and representatives of the Suffolk County Village Officials Association (SCVOA). The timing could not have been better to have NYCOM leaders address the governor's proposed budget just days prior to the NYCOM Annual Legislative Meeting. The evening began with opening remarks from our own Fran Murray, mayor of the Village of Rockville Centre and newly installed NYCOM president, followed by a comprehensive state budget analysis by NYCOM Executive Director Peter Baynes and General Counsel Wade Beltramo. It was obvious Peter and Wade are highly experienced and astute regarding the budget process. They clearly explained the proposed zoning mandates as well as other key elements of the governor's initial budget draft, which include AIM; water, sewer and transportation infrastructure; economic development and downtown revitalization; restoration of funding for Restore NY, a program for helping local governments address abandoned properties; bail reform; and an enhanced local ethics law.

It was an excellent briefing and we appreciate Fran, Peter and Wade taking time from their busy schedules to be with us and provide this critical update.

March Meeting to Feature County Legislature Leaders

I am looking forward to seeing all our village officials and Friends of the NCVOA at the March 8 General Membership meeting as, once again, we will resume in-person meetings. It should be a very interesting evening as Nassau County Legislature Presiding Officer Rich Nicoletto and Legislator Debra Mulè (unfortunately Minority Leader Keavan Abrahams is not available) will give us their perspectives on the state of Nassau County and the challenges facing our county in the months ahead.

Thank you for your continued interest and support. Please make every effort to attend the March 8 General Membership meeting. In the meantime, stay safe and strong.

Sincerely,



Mayor Daniel Serota

HELP US TO HELP YOU:

As you read above and as you know from our emails, we strongly encouraged all our villages to send letters similar to ours to their legislators with copies to Gaughran and Theile. Many of you did. We have been told by some of our legislators that those letters were enormously helpful in causing the governor to remove her AUD and TOD mandates from her proposed budget.

As we stated in last month's newsletter –

Other bills, already existing and to come, also are of concern. For example a bill proposing that village elections be held at the same time as statewide and national elections has been introduced in both houses again this year, and we have written to legislators opposing it.

The NCVOA exists exclusively to serve our 64 villages and their over 475,000 residents. Our voice is strong but our voice and 64 others are heard even louder. When we ask you to write letters, contact your legislators and other elected officials or take a few minutes to respond to surveys, please seriously consider doing so.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since its founding in 1910, NYCOM has had 95 presidents but never two members of the same family having served in that role. That stretch ended last month when Rockville Centre Mayor Fran Murray was installed as NYCOM's 96th President. Fran's late father Gene Murray, a longtime Rockville Centre mayor and NCVOA past president, was NYCOM President from 2003-2004. Fran's election earns the Murrays the distinction of being the first father/son presidents in NYCOM history.

MEET THE FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA:

The logos of our Friends of the NCVOA appear at the end of this newsletter and on our website – ncvoa.org. If you click on a Friends' logo, you will be taken to their website home page.



The Last Word:

“No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session.”

— Gideon J. Tucker

Published by the NASSAU COUNTY VILLAGE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 231239 • Great Neck, NY 11023
516.437.1455 • exec@ncvoa.org • www.ncvoa.org

FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA

Click on a Friends' logo to go to their website home page





CAMERON
ENGINEERING



CORPORATE
SYNERGIES®



D&B ENGINEERS
AND
ARCHITECTS, P.C.



Go First. Go Far.™

FLUSHING
Commercial ■ Business ■ Consumer Bank



FORCHELLI
DEEGAN
TERRANA

FBS

JUSTICE SOLUTIONS

GoodEnergy: 
A Smarter Way to Buy Energy



architects + engineers
practical approach. creative results.



The Voice of Long Island's Highway & Infrastructure Professionals



nationalgrid

HERE WITH YOU. HERE FOR YOU.



Northwell Health[®]
Emergency Medical Services

**NY
COM**

New York State Conference
of Mayors & Municipal Officials



PSEG LONG ISLAND

We make things work for you.

RM

RENU Contracting & Restoration

Milburn Flooring

RMB

DEVELOPMENT
CONSULTANTS, INC.

DRAFTING
SERVICES, INC.

SW | SAHNWARD

SAHN WARD BRAFF KOBLENZ



