



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2005 SMART GROWTH SUMMIT: VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

SMART GROWTH SUMMIT 2005 -- "REGIONAL PROBLEMS: LOCAL SOLUTIONS"

NOVEMBER 18TH, 2005 FROM 8AM – 4PM AT THE HUNTINGTON TOWN HOUSE

GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT LEADERS COME TOGETHER FOR VISION LONG ISLAND'S FOURTH ANNUAL SMART GROWTH SUMMIT, A COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO ADVANCE QUALITY GROWTH AND PRESERVATION ISLAND-WIDE.



John Cameron, principle of Cameron Engineering and Associates with Dr. Lee Koppelman, and Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi

NOVEMBER 18TH Vision Long Island, organizing force behind Long Island's most comprehensive annual land-use conference, hopes to convey the message that the key to most of the critical problems facing the region lies in a better understanding of how the issues work together, and how they are all impacted by the way Long Island chooses to develop and grow.

Long Island seems to be getting the point. At this year's conference, over 650 government, professional and not-for-profit leaders from throughout the region came together to offer their energy to this massive collective process. The result was a lively, thought-provoking effort to promote and improve upon efforts to effect quality growth and preservation on Long Island.

During a well-attended luncheon session, **Dr. Lee Koppelman**, head of the Long Island Regional Planning Board since its inception in 1965, reflected that virtually all of Long Island's growth has occurred only in the last fifty years. In that time, we have primarily grappled with and been at the forefront of environmental protection and preservation. Going forward, Dr. Koppelman noted the overwhelming importance of housing, and how difficult and courageous decisions must be made to ensure the region's long-term viability. **Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi** echoed the challenge.



North Hempstead Town Supervisor, Jon Kaiman, speaking at the morning Plenary

A sentiment made earlier in the day by **North Hempstead Supervisor Jon Kaiman** helped clarify the role of government leadership: The mandate is not necessarily for politicians to make decisions that -- no matter how well-intended -- go against the wishes of the constituencies they have been elected to represent. Instead, he asserted, it is incumbent upon our elected leaders to effectively communicate what the situation is and what our alternatives will create. Long Island's leaders need to work together to understand and effectively communicate the reality of these issues, guiding this region to effective decision making for the future.

Workshop highlights were many. A sampling includes:

- An important question facing Long Island is whether local control over land use still works, or whether larger regional control is necessary to execute what it deems to be in the best interests of the region. During the annual **Plenary: State of the Towns**, 6 Towns offered a means of providing local solutions by making a commitment to work together on regional planning. **Moderator Joye Brown of Newsday** offered a mandate that these leaders make good on these promises by coming together again soon.



Nassau County Legislator Lisanne Altman, Warren Tackenberg of the Nassau County Village Officials Assn and Lawrence Downes of the New York Times

- Workshops on **energy** and **green building design** addressed the need for reducing our dependence on fossil fuels through efficient community and building design. **Architect Bill Chaleff** provided an overview of LEED standards, **Sharon Laudisi of LIPA** explained several residential and business incentive programs offered by the Power Authority. **Charles Goudling of Energy Tax Savers, Inc.** provided an overview of state and federal tax incentives, some of which will come into effect in January 2006.



Mitch Pally of the Long Island Association, Judy White, CJ2 Communications, Tom Sullivan of Northrop Grumman and Mark Mediavilla of Orchard Park



Chirs O'Connor of the Long Island Neighborhood Networks, Legislator Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld, Brookhaven Councilwoman Connie Kepert and Rich Johannesen of Affiliated Brookhaven Civic Organization

- Along this theme, **Nassau County Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher** spoke about her bill to make all major construction in Suffolk County conform to LEED. Although it did not pass, the Police 4th Precinct will be built to these standards, serving as a model for future development. **Vilorio-Fisher** is also working to ensure that anything built under the TDR provision of the Suffolk County open space bill will be built green. **Brookhaven Town Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld**, highlighted his proposal to provide development standards for large commercial centers (read: big-box stores). There will be a hearing about this legislation on December 6th.
- At a workshop on the **impact of housing on school districts**, a variety of national and local evidence was presented illustrating that multi-family equity and rental housing impacts on school districts are not only much smaller than thought, but has a much lesser negative impact per acre than most single family housing. Compelling evidence was also offered regarding the potential fiscal benefits to school districts through added real estate taxes and reduced child impact costs.



Civic Leader Susan Auriemma of the Coalition for a Safer Manhasset

- **Laura Hall of Fisher & Hall Urban Design** introduced the *SmartCode*, a revolutionary regulatory standard that codifies context-sensitive development, including traditional neighborhood and mixed-use village-style design.
- **Civic Leader Susan Auriemma** of the **Coalition for a Safer Manhasset** made an appeal for safer streets in Long Island communities. **Jon Orcutt of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign** provided ways to achieve this through a new paradigm for transportation planning.



According to Vision Long Island President Ron Stein, “People came away wowed with the information. It was immensely clear that far more data should be collected from developers and researchers regarding on-the-ground build examples of market rate and affordable housing on LI regarding numbers of children generated. It was also very clear that impacts were probably far, far less than justifies the angst experienced by residents generally fighting important projects.”

The chief objective of the event is progress toward a *Smart Growth Agenda for Long Island*, which will offer a comprehensive collection of planning, development and preservation strategies. Videotapes of the sessions will be available soon at www.visionlongisland.org. **For more information about the Summit, tapes, and images, please call Vision Long Island at 631-261-0242.**



From top left: Don Clavin, Town of Hempstead Receiver of Taxes; Phil Cardinale, Riverhead Town Supervisor; Anthony Macagnone, Oyster Bay Town Council; Joye Brown, Newsday; Jon Kaiman, North Hempstead Town Supervisor; John Cameron, Cameron Engineering & Associates, Vision Long Island Board; Eric Alexander, Executive Director of Vision Long Island, Wayne Horsley, Babylon Town Council; Connie Kepert, Brookhaven Town Council; Ron Stein Vision Long Island Board President



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