



Earlene HOOPER

Deputy Speaker

Assemblywoman, 18th A.D

Reports to the People

March 2010

\$60 Million State Grant Helps Open New Health Clinic for Roosevelt / Freeport

A new state-of-the-art health clinic is now open for residents of Freeport and Roosevelt. A portion of the \$60 Million state grant that I was instrumental in obtaining was used to renovate a long-time eye-sore on Nassau Road into a much-needed health facility for the community. This health facility is also a source for

economic development.

In addition to the Roosevelt/Freeport site, the state grant is being utilized to modernize the Nassau University Medical Center emergency room, open a health clinic in Hempstead and an MRI Diagnostic Center in Hempstead Village. (Nassau

University Medical Center is the only public hospital available to Nassau County residents).

I am proud to have been and shall continue to be a vital part of these vital health and economic development successes for the people of the 18th A.D. and Nassau County.

(A 10033-A) Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Legislation to Stop "Tax-Relief" Abuse

The 18th A.D. has been inundated with tax burdens beyond its capacity. We are aware of our need for housing, job development and capital improvements. However, where there are excessive requests for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) we can not afford them.

Therefore, I have introduced legislation, A10033-A that requires the signature of the Chief Executive of the local municipality for which a PILOT has been requested prior to the acceptance of the application or the effectiveness of any such grant for a PILOT requested

by an Industrial Development Agency or any other entity that affects a municipality.

As it stands, a local municipality has no control over how many PILOTS are approved for its tax-paying citizens. In our case, the Town of Hempstead, or a County CDA has complete

authority to assess this onerous burden on us.

The committee appointed by the County or the Town is comprised of persons who neither live in nor pay taxes in our community. Thus, there is no incentive, understanding (or caring) as to the impact these PILOTS have on us.

The PILOT for a Terrace Avenue tract of 95% was approved with Mayor Hall's consent. This 95% tax free write-off for that parcel costs us, the taxpayers, over millions annually. Even before the Terrace Avenue PILOT was supported by Mayor Hall, 39% of village property was already off the tax rolls - this is unacceptable.

Another PILOT has been approved for 590/600 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead Village. This is a catastrophe for us.

On September 21, 2009, I attended the Public Authorities Control Board meeting in Albany and was able to stop the initial proposed "Terrace Avenue PILOT Project." However, State financial rules/regulations for such projects are "bundled" with other state-wide projects. Therefore, the "stop" request could only be made once. The Terrace

Avenue money, being bundled with other projects could not be stopped a second time (finally/completely) without jeopardizing other state-wide financial projects. So, we are now saddled with an unaffordable PILOT for Terrace Avenue.

The legislation I have introduced will give the tax-paying residents a voice in this onerous process.

I encourage all residents to stand-up, voice loudly, protest vehemently. Do not be deterred by water being sprayed on you by a Village official as you voice indignation to this practice. (At least no dogs were put upon you.) Meanwhile, I shall continue to add the strength of this office to right this wrong.

Since there was no testimony from any village official, I extend my gratitude to Andrew Hardwick, Mayor, Village of Freeport, for his presentation at the New York State Joint Budget Hearing on February 2, 2010 (Senate/Assembly) as he spoke in support of this legislation for the Hempstead tax payers. In addition, thank you Henry Holley for keeping me apprised as we moved through this conundrum.

“I extend my gratitude to Andrew Hardwick, Mayor, Village of Freeport, for his presentation at the New York State Joint Budget Hearing on February 2, 2010 (Senate/Assembly) as he spoke in support of this legislation for the Hempstead tax payers.”

Assemblywoman, 18th A.D

**Earlene
HOOPER**
Deputy Speaker

DISTRICT OFFICE:

50 Clinton Street, Suite 214 • Hempstead, New York 11550
516-489-6610

ALBANY OFFICE:

Room 739 LOB • Albany, New York 12248
518-455-5861

E-mail: hoopere@assembly.state.ny.us