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ALBANY

Brian F. Curran
Assemblyman, 21st District

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January 2014

Dear Neighbors:

Happy and healthy New Year! I am proud to share some wonderful news with you that happened just as 2013 was coming to a close.

At the urging of Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy and I, Governor Andrew Cuomo vetoed legislation that passed the Legislature – which I stood against, as did most of the Long Island State Senators – which would have transferred the Freeport Armory from the state to a private corporation.

Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy and the village board joined me in our steadfast opposition to this legislation. The bill's last-minute passage, despite objections and without any consultation with either Mayor Kennedy or the Village Board, was an unprecedented act.

I wrote several letters to Governor Cuomo stating that private corporations have no business getting state property for nothing. Thankfully, Governor Cuomo vetoed this bill.

This work we successfully accomplished will immensely benefit the Village of Freeport.

As you may be aware, Mayor Kennedy and the Village of Freeport have been vocal in expressing their interest in acquiring the Armory for the Freeport Police Department and the Department of Public Works (DPW), especially as Hurricane Sandy caused substantial damage to the Village DPW headquarters.

The Armory would provide substantial economic benefits to the Village and would help avoid the need to build a costly replacement building. In addition, the Village would be able to create a much-needed police satellite facility in the North Freeport area. I am extremely proud that these efforts to have this legislation vetoed were successful; it will help the Village and its working families and seniors.

It continues to be a privilege to serve this community, and I am tremendously thankful for the excellent working relationship I have maintained with Mayor Kennedy and the village board.

If I can be of assistance to you concerning this or any other state-related issue, including recovery and rebuilding questions from Hurricane Sandy, please feel free to contact me in my office at 516-561-8216 or email me at curranb@assembly.state.ny.us. It would be my pleasure to assist you, your family or neighbors.

Thank you again for allowing me to update you on this matter. Once again, all the best for a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Brian Curran
Assemblyman, 21st AD

Enclosure



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July 30, 2013

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
NYS State Capitol Building
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

Re: A508 by Hooper

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write to you in my capacity as the New York State Assemblyman representing the 21st Assembly District. I wish to express my opposition to A508 which would permit the Office of General Services to transfer the Freeport Armory to the Cedarmore Corporation for the alleged development of a charter school. I urge a veto of this legislation.

The last-minute passage of this bill, without consultation of the Village of Freeport's Mayor and Board of Trustees, and despite the objection of most of the Long Island state senators, constitutes an unprecedented act on the part of the sponsor. Over a period of three years, the Village strongly supported legislation that would transfer the Armory to the Village of Freeport. Legislation was introduced by Senator Fuschillo and Assembly Member Hooper providing for the transfer of the facility to the Village. This transfer was provided for in A11379-2010; A8342 of 2011 and A9166 of 2012. A comparable bill was introduced by Senator Fuschillo in 2010.

What is especially troubling about A508 is that the Village of Freeport has been especially vocal in expressing its interest in acquiring the Armory for the Freeport Police Department and the Department of Public Works. The recent Superstorm Sandy caused substantial damage to the Village's Department of Public Works; the Armory would provide substantial economic benefits to the Village as well as avoid the need to build a costly replacement building. In addition, the Village would be able to create a much-needed police satellite facility in the North Freeport area.

During the past three years, the state legislature has authorized the transfer of three armory facilities to municipalities for public use. Such transfers were authorized for Riverhead Town (Ch.495 of 2011), Huntington (Ch.243 of 2012) and Brookhaven (Ch.350 of 2012). Community groups should be able to utilize public facilities, but not own them at the expense of the taxpayers who have a legitimate governmental need.

In view of the fact that the sponsor of this bill has bypassed the Village of Freeport to extend a benefit to a preferred private entity, I respectfully request that this bill be vetoed on the ground that it would set a dangerous precedent and is inconsistent with the prior practices of the state legislature.

Thank you for your time and consideration toward this very important matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Curran".

Brian Curran
Assemblyman, 21st AD

cc: Mylan L. Denerstein, Counsel to the Governor