

Kenneth C. Riscica

From: Assemblymember Gina Sillitti <sillittig@nyassembly.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 4:20 PM
To: Kenneth C. Riscica
Subject: An update on the Governor's Housing Plan



Dear Neighbors,

I want to update you on the current negotiation process ahead of the FY2023-2024 New York State Budget, specifically the Governor's housing proposal.

Today the State Assembly Majority released its one-house budget resolution in response to the Governor's budget. **The Assembly proposal removes all language that includes state mandates, overrides of local control, and minimum density around train stations; and our proposal restores critical environmental reviews that protect our communities' futures.**

As you may know, the Governor announced her proposed budget in February. Today, as part of the traditional budget process, the Legislature released separate proposals to amend the Executive Budget prior to its enactment. Governor Hochul and the legislative majorities will now begin negotiations to find consensus around key issues affecting our state.

I know many of you have expressed concern with the Governor's proposed "New York State Housing Compact." I have too.

I had serious concerns about a proposal that would supersede municipal control on zoning matters. I also questioned the imposition of a rigid, mandated, one-size-fits-all solution. And so, we put solutions over politics and I got to work with my colleagues in the Assembly Majority to do just that.

We worked on a proposal that would appreciate our vast state, with each region seeking their own solutions to improve housing stock and its affordability. Just here on Long Island, different communities face an array of very real challenges, be it a patchwork of sewer and unsewered areas, the damage caused by toxic plumes, the reliance on our sole source aquifer for drinking water, or even the strain on the waste stream created by our current system.

We believe our local officials know the problems our Island faces and so we set out to include a housing proposal that could work for everyone. Our proposal provides incentives for the creation of affordable housing, and takes into account our time-honored home rule traditions.

Rather than state mandates and overriding of local zoning, the proposal would instead incentivize the development of new housing by offering \$500 million in financial assistance to

local municipalities interested in utilizing underdeveloped land for housing. New York can provide seed money to properly plan these projects and reward communities that follow through on the promise to build new housing.

I believe an incentive based approach is best for Long Island. We know that top down policies without stakeholder input do not work. To solve this housing crisis, we need our local partners at the table and I look forward to working with them in the months and years to come.

Let's get to work.

Sincerely,

Gina

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