

Thomas F. Barraga
Suffolk County Legislator
187 Sunrise Highway, Suite C
West Islip, New York 11795
(P) 631-854-4100
(F) 631-854-4103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DATE: July 27, 2012
CONTACT: Susan Malone
E-Mail: Susan.malone@suffolkcountyny.gov



NEWS FROM THE 11TH DISTRICT

BARRAGA OPPOSES PROPOSED 7-ELEVEN IN WEST ISLIP



Shown above L-R at the southeast corner of Udall Road and Muncey Road; the proposed 7-Eleven site, are Billy Roth owner of West Islip Bagels and Suffolk County Legislator Tom Barraga (R-West Islip)

Suffolk County Legislator Tom Barraga (R-West Islip) strongly opposes the proposed building of a 24 hour 7-Eleven on the southeast corner of Muncey Road and Udall Road in West Islip.

In previous letters to the Islip Town Supervisor, the Commissioner of Planning, the Chairman of the Islip Town Planning Board and the Board members Barraga urged rejection of the proposal. “A large number of residents living in the area have raised very serious objections to a 24 hour store from the stand point of traffic congestion, safety and noise” – said Barraga.

“One only has to look at the 7-Eleven located on Higbie Lane and Union Boulevard in West Islip to see what a traffic disaster has resulted from automotive activity when you have a store open 24 hours a day” – said Barraga.

It was over three years ago that several hundred residents, mainly those living on the north side of the hamlet, turned out at a Town Planning Board meeting to voice their displeasure with the proposal to close the gas & repair station and build a 7-Eleven on the southeast corner of Udall and Muncey Roads.

Another Public Hearing was held on July 26th, 2012 by the Town of Islip Planning Board at Town Hall. The owners have submitted an application seeking a change of zone from Business 1 District to Business 3 District and a Planning Board Special Permit for a convenience store – making it the third round of applications submitted for a 7-Eleven at that location.

Once again it was ‘standing room only’ as several hundred residents packed into Town Hall to attend the public hearing, all of whom were waiting to voice their objections over the building of a 7-Eleven at this location.

For over two hours the Islip Town Planning Board listened as residents, one by one voiced their opposition to the proposed building at the site. Safety was one of the residents’ main concerns. The area is a residential area and the influx of traffic would increase at an intersection that is in close proximity to Our Lady of Lourdes Church as well as four schools where children walk to and from school. They also noted that there would be only two entrances and exits for customers, employees and deliveries. The narrow intersection has a history of motor vehicle accidents and a 7-Eleven would only add to the problem. People living on adjacent streets between Sunrise Highway and east of Udall Road would also experience additional traffic problems. Drivers will be using these streets as a shortcut from Sunrise Highway to the 7-Eleven to avoid the back-up of traffic on Udall Road.

“Those residing in homes surrounding the proposed location purchased their homes in a quiet residential area and a 24 hour operation such as 7-Eleven will not only increase traffic but also noise, litter and other problems associated with a 24 hour establishment. I am in favor of promoting the growth of new business in West Islip but the building of another 24 hour 7-Eleven at this location is not in the best interests of my constituents and definitely does not protect the quality of life they deserve. I strongly urge the Islip Town Planning Board to reject this application for a change of zone” - said Barraga.