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Williams adds Educational Benefits for students and jobs for MWBE in \$1.2 billion Development Contract with the County

In April, I voted to approve the plans for a \$1.2 Billion biotech research facility that is expected to create a major industry here in Westchester County. The development called “North 60” involved leasing 60 acres of county-owned land located in Mount Pleasant to a private developer in order to facilitate the growth and opportunity for this biotech industry. The project is slated for approximately 3,000,000 square feet for tech and science development that generate \$9 million in new county tax revenues and \$7 million in rental income from the lease of the county land.

Here are the highlights of the 3-phase plan:

- A total of 2.3 million a square feet of biotech research space
- Medical offices totaling 400,000 square feet
- A 100,000 square feet hotel; consisting of 100 rooms

- Ground level commercial space consisting of 114,000 square feet
- Children’s living Science Center consisting of 34,000 square feet

During the negotiations, I added provisions to the contract that will enable collaboration between the biotech industry and Westchester Community College (WCC) and surrounding colleges so that students can obtain internships, training and pursue careers in bio science. The details on developing an educational program will be worked out by Westchester Community College. This is the largest economic development project in Westchester County and I want to make sure that future generations of students at WCC benefit from its success. I also added a provision to the agreement that will require the developer and the county to take affirmative steps to provide opportunity for Minority and Women Owned-Business Enterprises



(MWBE) participation in the construction and other phases of the project. I believe that any major economic development project would only be worthy of approval if the project is focused on job creation and MWBE participation.

My colleagues and I on the Board of Legislators worked hard on a comprehensive review of this project to ensure we approve the best deal for county taxpayers including labor protections, opportunities for minority and women owned businesses, internships and opportunities for our local colleges and universities, and environmental protections. ■

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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Summer 2017 Newsletter

Lyndon D. Williams

District 13 ~ Mount Vernon

Dear Neighbor,

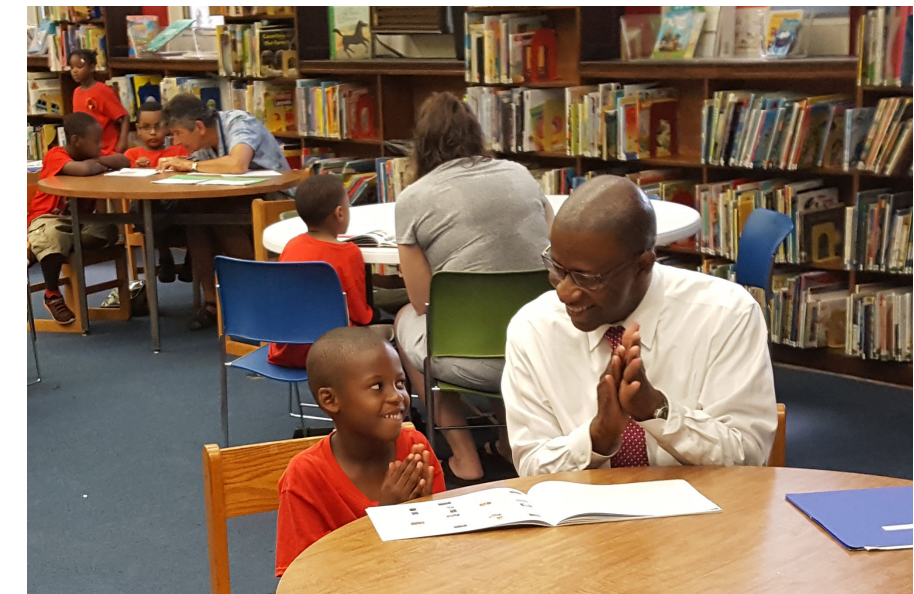
I hope that you are having an enjoyable summer with your family and friends. This is the season for relaxation and recreation after the cold fall and winter months. Westchester County offers many summer activities such as Playland Park and Beach in Rye, outdoor picnic area and the Wave Pool at Willson’s Woods in Mount Vernon along with many other county-wide parks and recreation facilities, six county-owned golf courses, the County Nature Centers and much more. I hope you and your family will take advantage of these activities and take plenty of pictures. Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,
Lyndon D. Williams

Community Youth Programs

I have supported and continue to support county-wide youth programs and opportunities for summer jobs at County facilities such as Rye Playland and Wilson Woods. I also support numerous programs to keep Mount Vernon’s youth engaged in positive activities including:

- **MOUNT VERNON YOUTH BUREAU** - The STEAM program is free and provides fun activities that focus on science, technology, engineering, architecture and Mathematics. These fun programs foster creativity as well as enhance critical thinking skills.
- **MOUNT VERNON YOUTH BUREAU** - Step Up! Program- This mentorship program focuses on at risk young men between 13-19 years old. They develop leadership skills, job readiness and public speaking skills. This program also provides after-school employment as well as field trips and cultural outings.
- **SAFE HAVEN** - the Safe Haven after-school program at Rebecca Turner Elementary school (Longfellow) provides a safe and productive environment for children to complete home- work and participate in fun activities with assistance from qualified and dedicated staff.
- **MOUNT VERNON BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB** - the Boys and Girls Club provides a safe, fun and educational space for kids after school. Children ages 6-13 will receive homework help, snacks, physical activity and guidance through many programs provided by the club.
- **READING IS FUNDAMENTAL!** - I’m proud to support children’s reading programs at the Mount Vernon Public Library. These programs help to strengthen the minds of the next generation of leaders and foster a love of reading and learning in our youth.



Maintaining Our Infrastructure - Fulton Avenue Drawbridge Restoration

The Fulton Avenue Drawbridge was built in 1974. It is one of the busiest traffic routes in Westchester County, connecting Mount Vernon and Pelham, and providing access to the Hutchinson River Parkway and Interstate 95. The 171-foot long bridge, which runs over Eastchester Creek, has been closed and re-opened several times over years for repairs and is now closed during the remainder of 2017 as part of a large scale rehabilitation project that will eliminate these intermittent closures for repairs. The estimated cost of the work is \$14.8 million. The construction work started in December 2016 is expected to take 24 months but the expected closure of the bridge is approximately 1 year.

The restoration includes construction work to replace steel members and piers, rehabilitate worn surfaces, mechanical components, electrical components,

the span drives, power and control system. A new emergency generator will be installed to operate the bridge in the event of a power outage. The metal bulkheads will also be replaced to further protect the riverbank.

The bridge is important for shoppers and residents, providing them with simple access to major retail establishments in Mount Vernon and Pelham. Also, local small merchants and restaurants benefit from the free flow of traffic and commerce over the Fulton Avenue Bridge. Therefore, area businesses and residents are naturally concerned about any closures that disrupt residential



and commercial activities.

Detour: detours are posted on several area roads, directing drivers to alternate routes to the Hutchinson River Parkway, where they can travel between exits 7 (Boston Road) and 8 (East Sanford Boulevard) instead of the bridge. ■

Immigration Protection Act Introduced

Many Westchester residents are living in fear because of immigration policies recently implemented by President Donald Trump's administration. These policies raise questions regarding violations of the constitutional rights of immigrant families including children living in this country, many of whom reside here in Westchester County. America is a nation of immigrants and political rhetoric that demonizes and publically denigrates immigrant families has no place here. The courts have ruled that some of these recent Trump Administration policies are unconstitutional.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I on the Board of Legislators introduced the Immigration Protection Act to address concerns about inhumane treatment of immigrant families. Federal immigration policies that discourage immigrants from cooperating with local law enforcement officers in preventing or solving crimes, because of fear of deportation or arrest, do not serve local public safety interest. Also, many immi-

grant families are afraid to access vital services, which they are entitled to, and are subjected to unfair treatment in our legal system.

This bill codifies existing County policy while at the same time incorporating provisions of a model law recommended by the New York Attorney General's office. The purpose of the law is to ensure that all Westchester County residents are protected and treated fairly regardless of where they were born.

Westchester County's law enforcement personnel and facilities are designed to serve Westchester residents. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is responsible for enforcement of the U.S. immigration laws. While local law enforcement may assist ICE in the apprehension of dangerous persons convicted of a crime, they should not take on the job of stopping people and checking their immigration status or detaining residents without probable cause or a court order. That is not the job of our local police officers.

Here are some of the provisions to the Immigration Protection Act:

- Safeguarding confidentiality of information shared with all County departments
- Prohibiting County officers and officials from honoring ICE detainer requests without probable cause or a court order.
- Ensuring any service provided by a County Agency shall be made available to all who are eligible notwithstanding their immigration status
- Protecting the County from liability for false arrests and false imprisonment

As an attorney, I have assisted in organizing immigration forums throughout the county to educate residents about the legal rights. These forums were cosponsored by The Legal Aide Society of Westchester, Westchester Black Bar Association, Grace Baptist Church Legal Ministry, the Regional Immigration Assistance Center and other community-based organizations. ■

Memorial Field Forum

I held a public information meeting on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. on the Mount Vernon Campus of Westchester Community College with the community and representatives from the office of the Mayor, City Council members, and the City Comptroller. I hosted this meeting to facilitate productive discussions and hopefully bring City Officials together behind a comprehensive plan for cleaning up the contaminated soil at Memorial Field and ultimately moving forward with its restoration. Although the County provided substantial funding, almost \$10 million for the restoration of Memorial Field, City Officials make the decisions on whether or not conditions change at the field because the property is owned and controlled by the City of Mount Vernon. As the County Legislator of Mount Vernon, Memorial Field is located in my district; I will continue to be a strong advocate of restoring this facility to its former glory.



The meeting came on the heels of a Consent Order from New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) requiring the City to clean up 12,000 cubic yards of construction and demolition debris dumped at the site. In 2015, DEC's testing reported the debris was contaminated with coal, slag and ash. DEC issued a Notice of violation against the City for operating an unlawful construction and demolition waste disposal site at Memorial Field. In 2017, DEC fined the City \$50,000 of which \$40,000 was paid pending compliance with DEC's Consent Order signed by the City on May 9, 2017.

The Consent Order requires the City to take certain remedial actions:

- **Submit Records** – within 30 days of the Consent Order, the city must submit detailed records on the construction and demolition material dumped on Memorial Field.
- **City can choose from two remediation options** – (1) Separate contaminated from uncontaminated material and disposed of the contaminated material at a DEC facility; or (2) Conduct an investigation to determine if the material is not harmful to the environment or public health and safety; and if so, develop a remediation plan for the material the City intends to keep on the site.
- **DEC Approval** – whichever option chosen by the City must be approved by DEC.
- **Time Frames** – DEC outlined specific timeframes that the city must comply with in the Consent Order and Mount Vernon's remedial plan must be fully implemented by December 31, 2017.

The May 6, 2017 meeting with City Officials was very productive. The City Council members, Comptroller, and Mayor's representative expressed their willingness to work toward the environmental cleanup of Memorial Field as quickly as possible. I'm encouraged by these developments and hope that you are as well. ■



Willson's Woods Park Improvements

There are major improvements being done at Willson Woods Park. My colleagues and I approved funding the improvements to Willson's Woods Park in Mount Vernon. In 2015, we approved \$3.1 million to fund the costs of Willson Woods Modernization and completing the design and construction of the second phase of this project including the bathhouse electrical system, roof, and structural repairs, interior locker rooms, showers, restrooms, plumbing flooring, interior and exterior finishes, doors windows, filters rooms building repairs and infrastructure work. The new renovated pavilion at Willson Woods will open this summer.

We also approved \$825,000 for restoration of the lake at Willson's Woods Park. The lake is part of the Hutchinson River running between Mount Vernon and Pelham. Sediments in the lake accumulated over the years have reached levels above the waterline almost spanning the entire width of the lake, creating an islands redirecting the river flow and causing erosion of the lakeshore. These conditions make the lake unsightly and cause reduction in the biodiversity and water quality in the lake and downstream.

The \$825,000 approved by the Board of Legislators will be used to remediate these deteriorating conditions and create a better environment for wildlife and pleasing to patrons of the park. The improvements will stabilize the shoreline of the lake, reconstruct the outlet structure, re-establish the pathway around the lake, rebuild the terrace-shelter for ice skating and improve the landscaping. ■