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CRED4GI CONTINUES ITS FIGHT AGAINST AMAZON

July 21, 2020 Grand Island, N.Y.—Coalition for Responsible Economic Development for Grand Island (CRED4GI) is continuing its grassroots efforts amid developer TC Buffalo's "pausing" of the proposed 3.8 million sqft Amazon warehouse facility in the residential community of Grand Island. According to Cathy Rayhill, CRED4GI's spokesperson, the organization is continuing its outreach and plans to gather 2,000 signatures on its petition by Island residents in the next month. This goal seems within sight as 943 signatures opposing the project were collected in just 19 days. The petitions were delivered to Town Supervisor John Whitney Monday evening, just before the Town Board meeting.

At the Town Board Meeting on July 20th, Whitney mentioned receiving over 100 emails a day regarding the proposed Amazon warehouse. The last three rounds of public comments published on the Town's website included 123 letters in opposition to Project Olive with only 2 letters in favor; one of which was written by an organization working with TC Buffalo.

During the same meeting, Dick Crawford, Superintendent of the Grand Island Highway Department, emphasized his concerns regarding the impact Project Olive would have on Grand Island's roads and infrastructure. This, despite Kim Nason of Phillips Lytle, the law firm representing the developer, making a false assertion to the Economic Development Advisory Board on 7/16 that town consultants found "the existing roadway network can reasonably accommodate the project".

In addition to the misstatements of fact regarding the traffic and infrastructure damage Project Olive would bring, Phillips Lytle's reps recently issued a revised Economic Assessment Impact that dropped the previously estimated value of the project by \$52,661,200. This is a drop of 25% from what they had alleged less than three weeks earlier.

At the 7/16 meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Board, Martha Ludwig said, "I find it very, very concerning that, at this high level of production and reporting and development those kinds of errors occurred. I find that really, really troublesome. I think it should be a huge red flag for folks about the types of information that we can depend on in this next round and the accuracy of it, that really concerns me." 1:26:00-1:26:42. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZF1m1QFFr4>

During the Town Board Workshop that took place prior to the board meeting on 7/20, William Huntress, the current owner of the property at 2780 Long Road, was allowed to speak at length about why he personally believes this project is good for the community. In doing so, Mr. Huntress misstated that TC Buffalo's proposed tax benefit to the town of Grand Island would be 10% of the town's budget. In actual fact the proposed "benefit" would only average \$638,840 over 15 years, a mere 2% of Grand Island's annual budget. The proposed benefit to the school district, which Phillips Lytle and TC Buffalo reps assert frequently as a community benefit, would be just 2.6% of the total school budget.

CRED4GI and concerned residents are continuing their efforts to provide information and full clarity across the community about the actual scope of the proposed project and to build a town-wide coalition promoting more responsible economic growth. CRED4GI continues to vigilantly monitor every step taken on the proposal. Spokesperson Cathy Rayhill states, "This fight is far from over and we remain committed to ensure that our grassroots efforts speak loud and clear to our elected officials that this project is not appropriate for our community."

Public Comments:

<http://cms5.revize.com/revize/grandislandny/Project%20Olive/Project%20Olive%20Public%20Comments%201%20of%202-07132020.pdf>

<http://cms5.revize.com/revize/grandislandny/Project%20Olive%20Public%20Comments%202%20of%202-07132020.pdf>

<http://cms5.revize.com/revize/grandislandny/Project%20Olive/Project%20Olive%20Comments-up%20to%207-19.pdf>