

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE



WILLIAM J. LINDSAY, PRESIDING OFFICER

March 30, 2007

Mr. Barrett Psareas, Vice President
Nassau County Civic Association

Dear Mr. Psareas:

I'm replying to your comments concerning my vote on IR No. 1022, "The Anti-Loitering Bill." I voted against the legislation not because of a lack of sympathy for the residents of Farmingville and other communities in our county that face the problem of day laborers gathering on their street corner every morning. I voted against the legislation because it was flawed legislation that would have actually weakened statutes already in existence.

IR No. 1022, if passed, would have required that police issue a warning for the first offense for obstructing either vehicular or pedestrian traffic. Current law allows police to fine and/or arrest pedestrians or vehicles that obstruct our highways. Therefore, the solution to this horrendous problem is not additional and weakened legislation, but rather to enforce the existing legislation vigorously.

During the debate of IR No. 1022 on the evening of March 20th, I circulated a letter to my colleagues addressed to Richard Dormer, Commissioner of the Suffolk County Police Department asking him to strongly enforce the existing laws to address this problem. Sixteen of the seventeen legislators present signed this letter (copy attached). This was actually done on the record but, unfortunately, was not reported in the media.

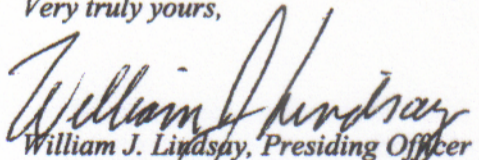
There is no doubt that the day laborer problem facing our communities is a result of a flawed national immigration policy. As a result, our local governments are faced with the problems surrounding the illegal immigration problem. The Suffolk County Legislature has been in the middle of this issue for sometime. Six years ago, a potential solution was proposed that the county partially finance a hiring hall to get the day workers off the streets. I voted against this proposal because I don't believe it is the proper use of taxpayer money to finance a hiring site for the underground economy.

Last year, the County Executive put forward a bill to have county contractors certify that their employees are in compliance with Federal Immigration Laws. I supported this legislation and it passed by a wide margin and is currently in effect. So, as you can see, this issue isn't quite as clear cut as reported in the media with either a "Yes" or "No" vote.

I will continue to represent my constituents in a responsible way that works rather than what sounds good, but doesn't work.

I appreciate your contacting my office about this or any other issue.

Very truly yours,


William J. Lindsay, Presiding Officer
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