

October 1, 2007

Dear Mr. Mancini, Editor,

In furtherance of your article on September 29, 2007 regarding the LIA's tour of the Nissequogue River State Park, I would like an answer as to the real origins of this tour,

The first line of the article states "State Parks Commissioner Carol Ash's decision to invite a Long Island business group along on her first visit to the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center next week has raised fears from local officials and civic leaders that the state may turn the land over to developers." That's not the State Parks version of what happened, nor the version of one of the authors of the Newsday article itself. Their version is that it was the LIA and the Newsday editorial staff that decided to tour the site and State Parks thought they should not do it without a State Parks representative present. That representative, as it turns out, is Commissioner Ash.

In the spirit of full disclosure, I am one of the concerned civic leaders you refer to in your article. How about Newsday disclosing their participation in this tour and their affiliation with the LIA? Was it the State or was it LIA or was it Newsday that decided it was a good idea to look at State owned Park property and consider putting housing on it. (Shall we all tour Caumsett State Park Friday, or is that too close to LIA President Mr. Crosson's home.)

Shouldn't the readers have been told in the article that the Newsday Editorial Staff was going along on this tour and that the President and CEO of Newsday, Mr. Timothy Knight, is on the Board of Director's of the LIA?

All interesting questions that I am sure you would love to clear up for your readership. At the end of the day, what is truly happening here is a group of fat cats want to line their pockets at the expense of an entire community. How outrageous, housing on State Park property, so a few can get richer.

Linda Henninger
Kings Park Neighbors Association

cc: Timothy Knight, CEO and President

Response from Mr. Mancini, the editor of Newsday,

"Thank you for writing to us. You are right: we should have reported in our original story that members of the Newsday editorial board were among those who would accompany the parks commissioner."

Further he states " We acknowledged our oversight regarding the tour in a clarification on page A17 in today's paper. The inclusion of Newsday editorial board members on the visit was also reported in a follow-up story on page A18 in today's paper."

Further, Mr. Mancini states: "Newsday, as a prominent business on Long Island, belongs to the Long Island Association."

Newsday October 2, 2007

[CLARIFICATION: A story Saturday about State Parks Commissioner Carol Ash's plans to tour the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center on Thursday with two executives of the Long Island Association did not mention that members of Newsday's editorial board also are scheduled to accompany Ash on her tour. Pg. A17 NS 10/2/07 Ash is scheduled to tour the property Thursday with two executives of the Long Island Association but she did not invite elected officials, civic leaders or environmentalists