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MOLINARO CALLS ON MTA CHAIR TO HALT K-9 TRAINING FACILITY

Assemblyman wants more local input on MTA's plans to purchase, overhaul land

In a recent letter to Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) Chairman Jay Walder, Assemblyman Marc Molinaro (R,I,C-Red Hook) expressed his opposition to the agency's plan to expand, train and house K-9 units as well as building a communications tower, shooting range, parking fields and a railroad siding in the Towns of East Fishkill and Beekman. The projects would total an estimated \$7 million.

Referring to a recent meeting between elected officials and MTA personnel, the assemblyman stated, "Representatives expressed grave concern regarding the lack of funds for overall capital projects in the Metro North region. Is this the best and most appropriate use of funding at this time? Could continued partnership with local law enforcement agencies not continue in order to limit the expense of this funding?"

In 2009, Assemblyman Molinaro joined numerous colleagues in calling for the postponement of this project. At the time, he insisted that no communications tower would be built and that the MTA would adhere to the principles of the *State Environmental Quality Review Act* (SEQRA). These assurances are not included in the agency's latest proposal.

"While I support your initiative to take measures to prevent and deter terrorist attacks within the transit system, I still believe there are concerns remaining that need to be addressed with better communication between the governments of the affected towns and their constituents," said Molinaro. "It is therefore with great respect for your anti-terrorism and public security initiatives that I request that the project not proceed until there is further deliberation and a commitment that the MTA adhere to the principles of, if not the entire SEQRA process, empowering local officials and the Town of Fishkill and Beekman so they might play a role in reviewing this project."

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Assemblyman Marc Molinaro, once America's youngest mayor, served twelve years as Mayor of the Village of Tivoli in Dutchess County. He served concurrently as a member of the Dutchess County Legislature from 2000 until 2006, when he was elected to represent the 103rd Assembly District. As a County Legislator, Molinaro served as Chairman of the Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee where he was responsible for stewardship of the county's \$400 million budget adoption. In 2010, Assemblyman Marc Molinaro served on Governor Andrew Cuomo's Transition Team. This year, Marc was appointed by Assembly Republican Leader Brian Kolb as Assistant Minority Leader Pro Tempore and the Republican Conference's representative on Governor Cuomo's Mandate Relief and Redesign Team.