

Appendix C595

August 24, 2009 Correspondence from Nassau County Office of Emergency
Management



NASSAU COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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THOMAS R. SUOZZI
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

JAMES J. CALLAHAN, III
COMMISSIONER

August 24, 2009

Lighthouse Development Group
1600 Old Country Rd
Plainview, NY

Re: Nassau Coliseum Pet Shelter

Dear Sirs:

It has come to my attention that a question has arisen regarding the County's Evacuation and Sheltering Plans and the use of the Nassau Coliseum. I wanted to take a moment to clarify that issue so that there is a greater understanding of these plans.

Nassau County has created a "Sheltering Solar System" concept for a major evacuation and sheltering operation. A "Sheltering Solar System" consists of a "General Population Shelter", "Special Needs Shelter" and a "Pet Shelter" all located in close proximity of each other. Under Nassau County's Evacuation and Sheltering Plans, Nassau Coliseum is not a shelter for people. It is however a shelter for pets.

The Solar System that the Nassau Coliseum is the pet shelter for, is called the "Nassau Community College Sheltering Solar System". It is one of three major Sheltering Solar Systems in the County. The General Population Shelter is Nassau Community College's "P" Building which holds over 5,000 people (under a Nassau County Red Cross Sheltering Agreement). The Special Needs Shelters are the "CCB" building at Nassau Community College, holding 450 people and Kellenberg High School holding over 900. The Coliseum is the Pet Shelter.

The County, together with the Nassau County Red Cross, has pre-positioned over 5,000 cots and 10,000 blankets on the grounds of Nassau Community College for the shelter. In conjunction with the Nassau County Department of Health, we are attempting to pre-position supplies at Kellenberg High School as well.

I have met with representatives from the Lighthouse Development Group and they are more than willing to have a location in the new plans for the site to include a replacement

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location for the sheltering of pets. We are currently evaluating several locations on the property to determine which is the most beneficial.

It is my understanding that in some older version of the Sheltering Plans, Nassau Coliseum is listed as an evacuation shelter for people. As a result of the lessons learned in Hurricane Katrina it was decided that large venues such as the Coliseum were not ideal for major sheltering locations. As such the Coliseum is not used for the Sheltering of people.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and continued cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

James J. Callahan, III
Commissioner

JJC/bms