



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

## Addabbo and Pheffer Amato Question New York City Council Speaker Adams Proposal to Turn Aqueduct Into Affordable Housing

JOSEPH P. ADDABBO JR. March 14, 2024

State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. and Assemblymember Stacey Pheffer Amato issued the following statement:

"On behalf of our constituents, we must express our concerns about New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams' statement in relation to the development of the Aqueduct Racetrack site, a 172-acre state-owned property. Due to the uncertainty of the specific location of the property mentioned by Speaker Adams, we believe it is crucial to recognize that decisions regarding any state land should be made by state authorities and in accordance with state regulations. The State Legislature has actually addressed this issue when it passed the Belmont Racetrack reconstruction legislation last year to create a community-based council to assist in deciding the future fate of the Aqueduct property, once the racetrack there closes. Speaker Adams' vague reference to the Aqueduct property is questionable since it has several owners, different jurisdictions and could possibly raise legal and procedural issues. We have seen other proposals for the Aqueduct Racetrack property that would create thousands of local union jobs, entertainment opportunities, parkland, in addition to thousands of workforce housing units.

Furthermore, the timeline for the decision-making process may extend beyond the term of

the current Speaker, leading to a lack of continuity and accountability for said process. It is essential that decisions of such long-term magnitude and importance be made with due diligence and transparency, ensuring that the best interests of the community and all stakeholders are properly considered. The future of this valuable property, most of which is state-owned, should be decided through a comprehensive and inclusive process that respects the jurisdiction and authority of the state and others. We look forward to working with the community, interested entities and our colleagues in government when the time arises to discuss the future use of the Aqueduct property."