Supervisor Santino and Town of Hempstead Councilmembers,

We urge you to demand that the Town of Hempstead Industrial Development Agency ("TOH IDA") reverse its decision to grant a $14 million payment in lieu of taxes ("PILOT") to Macerich Company, the owner of Green Acres Mall.

As a direct result of the PILOT agreement between TOH IDA and Macerich – the largest PILOT that Nassau County has ever seen – the taxes of Valley Stream residents are scheduled to skyrocket immediately. We are outraged that this agreement went forth without a financial impact study and without the TOH IDA fully understanding the negative ramifications it would have on Valley Stream residents. This PILOT favors the needs of special interests rather than hardworking, local taxpayers. While the TOH IDA remains steadfast in its assertion that it requested feedback from the community, it is apparent that it failed to adequately notify residents of public hearings and the financial impact on their property taxes. Indeed, with a PILOT of this size, not one community member attended the hearings to speak for or against this project – a clear sign that proper notice was not given.

Frankly, we are outraged and feel blindsided. This inequity must be fixed and we will stand for nothing less. Since all TOH IDA members have been appointed by you, we implore you to urge their immediate reversal of this PILOT given its clear, systemic failure to serve the best interests of Valley Stream taxpayers. Should the TOH IDA refuse to honor your demand of reversing their decision, we then request that you consider their immediate removal, as you are empowered to do pursuant to the General Municipal Law § 856.2.

Sincerely,

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