



OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR  
TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD  
ONE WASHINGTON STREET  
HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. 11550-4923  
(516) 469-5000

July 2009

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Our Neighbor At  
99 Nichols Ct  
Hempstead NY 11550-3166



Dear Neighbor,

People like you who live in the Village of Hempstead demonstrate a unique level of hometown pride and community spirit. Indeed many of your neighbors made a conscious decision to select your hometown as their residence because of all the fine qualities and services that are "part and parcel" of village life. Villages offer a unique type of government and quality of life that attract many people. And, based upon the decisions being made in Albany, that all may change.

We are writing to you regarding the local government consolidation bill, which was recently approved by both houses of the New York State Legislature and has just been signed by Governor Paterson. In short, this consolidation legislation makes it much easier to eliminate certain governmental entities such as villages and fire districts. We have written to Attorney General Cuomo, the author of the consolidation legislation, and forwarded copies to legislative leaders urging them to amend the legislation to exclude villages and fire departments from the new consolidation process. To that end, we had asked Governor Paterson not to sign the bill in its current form. The Governor ignored our request. At the same time, we would like to thank our local state legislators who voted against the consolidation bill.

The Town of Hempstead is home to some 22 incorporated villages, each of which has a mayor and a board of trustees who serve their community with pride and distinction. For issues ranging from parks to permits they are there, day and night, in the village hall and in the supermarket. They are truly accountable to you since they are more than just your elected representatives – they are your neighbors. It would not only be a shame to lose the level of service offered to you, it would be a detriment to your community to have – on the whim of a few – in some cases over 100 years of village government erased. Further, village officials influence the very face of your neighborhoods through their zoning authority.

Simply put, it's great to live in a village. Villages like Hempstead offer independence, personal contact and several other advantages, all which can be wiped away if nothing is done to amend the legislation. We believe Albany must act. Let the people of each village decide whether it should be folded or not. The decision on whether or not a community should continue to be an incorporated village or not should be made in village halls, not the State Capitol.

We are imploring Albany to amend this legislation to exclude villages from the consolidation process. We owe it to you, the village resident, who chose the more personal route of representation – a village – when selecting where to raise a family. Village governments are at the very core of the identity of incorporated areas for so many residents. We're all for Hempstead Village remaining as your hometown government so long as village residents want it that way.

Sincerely,

*Kate Murray*  
KATE MURRAY  
Supervisor

*Dorothy L. Goosby*  
DOROTHY L. GOOSBY  
Councilwoman