

Long Road

June 28, 2020

Dear Grand Island Neighbors,

I have been a resident of Grand Island living on [redacted] for over 49 year. I have raised my family in this quiet tranquil neighborhood and have enjoyed the restful country-like atmosphere that the northwest area of Grand Island has offered all these years. I feel compelled to reach out to all my residential neighbors who live in the Northwest section of Grand Island and who will be most affected by Project Olive (AMAZON).

Because of Covid 19, social distancing, and the inability of many residents living in the Northwest section of Grand Island to voice their opinions publicly on the Zoom town board meeting about this project, I am reaching out to all Northwest neighbors to express your opinions for or against Project Olive and the ability to express your opinion in written form.

I will be taking in person, ALL returned surveys whether for or against the Amazon facility to our town supervisor John Whitney.

As our Supervisor has stated on the town website – Grand Island is truly a “Grand” place to live. However, I feel that will soon end if this mammoth Amazon facility is built here on Grand Island between Bedell, West River, Sunset Drive and Long Roads surrounded by residential properties.

Town of Tonawanda has a much smaller Amazon facility that is ready to start business. It was built in an industrial park setting that does not affect any residential properties.

Check one:

For Project Olive (AMAZON facility)

Against Project Olive (AMAZON facility)

Reasons for your Choice for or against Project Olive: (Use back of page for more comments)

I live 2 houses away on Long Rd from where they want to put the "road" leading to their buildings there will be constant traffic, noise, pollution, dust and dirt - not to mention the devaluation of my New

Signature: *Geraldine Staling* address: [redacted]

Please return survey to me either by mail or email, I will be taking returned surveys to town hall on July 10th.

home (turn over)

Thank You,

Betty Lou Tranter

Betty Lou Tranter

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

I already wrote a letter to the town clerk mentioning all the reasons of why not to do this. This was just before they had their meeting online June 11th at 7 PM. Another concern of mine is that property is wetlands. When it rains a lot and hard the water travels to our side ^{LONG RD} and has caused other neighbors property to flood.

When I owned ^{other} property on the Island I was told it was wetlands and the town wouldn't let me do a thing with it Now PROJECT OLIVE can?

In my estimation this is a double standard. Whose side are they on the people who live here and pay taxes or ?? the other guys who will probably not even pay any taxes.

June 28, 2020

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For Project Olive (AMAZON facility)

Against Project Olive (AMAZON facility)

Reasons for your Choice for or against Project Olive: (Use back of page for more comments)

LOVER

Signature: Lynne R. Daniels Address: [redacted]

Please return survey to me either by mail or email, I will be taking returned surveys to town hall on July 10th.

Thank You,

Betty Lou Tranter

Betty Lou Tranter

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

My husband and I bought our residence on [redacted] right where it curves into West River Parkway. We were glad to have a septic system rather than sewer lines as it limited how close any future neighbors might build.

When some yrs back one developer, Acquest, sought to build a complex (small compared to HUGE Amazon project) in the NW corner, we got to meet many of our neighbors. A community action group, Quality Quest Coalition, was founded in our living room. Through petition drives, many neighborhood mtgs and speaking up at town board mtgs we succeeded in preserving our peaceful slice of nature.

When my husband and I had the opportunity to purchase the adjacent West River lot we acted quickly. Money was tight but we were determined to expand our tranquil setting.

We are now frustrated that the proposed Amazon Project is even being considered. How does this plan provide any positive gains for our residential neighborhood? Should the recently created West River Parkway, now closed to car & truck traffic, have a 9 story tall bldg as a backdrop? Please protect our treasured community.

Lynne & Jim Daniels

June 28, 2020

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Check one:

For Project Olive (AMAZON facility)

Against Project Olive (AMAZON facility) 100% against!

Reasons for your Choice for or against Project Olive: (Use back of page for more comments)

It would be in my backyard & I'd hear trucks 24/7. Not fair & our taxes are huge!

Julie McNulty

Signature: *Hed wertz*

Address: [redacted]

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Thank You,

Betty Lou Tranter

Betty Lou Tranter
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Others

June 28, 2020

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Against Project Olive (AMAZON facility)

Reasons for your Choice for or against Project Olive: (Use back of page for more comments)

I moved to G.I. 25 years ago & have come to love the peacefulness I feel as I get over the bridge after a long days work - minimal traffic & noise - its a feeling of serenity. G.I. should be known as an outdoor destination with its natural beauty along the Niagara River not as a place for Amazon to pump out packages, create major traffic →

Signature: Christina Norman Address: [redacted]

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Thank You,

Betty Lou Tranter

Betty Lou Tranter
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

problems for current tax payers as well as noise & pollution from exhaust from all of the Amazon trucks.

Some people enjoy the simple things in life and live in G.I. for that reason, I'm sure there is a better location for Amazon ~ not in such a residential area and not in our backyard.

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Against Project Olive (AMAZON facility)

Reasons for your Choice for or against Project Olive: (Use back of page for more comments)

Signature: 

Address: [REDACTED]

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Betty Lou Tranter

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Reasons for your Choice for or against Project Olive: (Use back of page for more comments)

The bridges are already having problems. This will make the traffic impossible. The roads are not going to be able to handle the truck traffic. The plans are →

Signature: Susan B. Palcia Address: [REDACTED]

Please return survey to me either by mail or email, I will be taking returned surveys to town hall on July 10th.

Thank You,

Betty Lou Tranter
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

against the building codes for this area.

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Against Project Olive (AMAZON facility)

Reasons for your Choice for or against Project Olive: (Use back of page for more comments)

Signature: Joan P Murray Address: [REDACTED]

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Thank You,

Betty Lou Tranter
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Against Project Olive (AMAZON facility)

Reasons for your Choice for or against Project Olive: (Use back of page for more comments)

Signature: Betty Lou Tranter Address: [REDACTED]

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Thank You,

Betty Lou Tranter

Betty Lou Tranter
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
716 715 5512

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 Against Project Olive (AMAZON facility)

Reasons for your Choice for or against Project Olive: (Use back of page for more comments)

Signature: David Thomas Address: 7-8-20

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Thank You,

Betty Lou Tranter

Betty Lou Tranter
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Maureen Utz

Subject: Amazon

Date: Jul 9, 2020 at 10:07:16 AM

To: [Redacted]

June 28, 2020

Dear Grand Island Neighbors,

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Reasons for your Choice for or against Project Olive: (Use back of page for more comments)

Signature: *M Utz*

Address: [Redacted]

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Thank You,

Betty Lou Tranter

Betty Lou Tranter

[Redacted]

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Against Project Olive (AMAZON facility)

Reasons for your Choice for or against Project Olive: (Use back of page for more comments)

Traffic

Signature: David M. [REDACTED] Address: [REDACTED]

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Thank You,

Betty Lou Tranter

Betty Lou Tranter
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Against Project Olive (AMAZON facility)

Reasons for your Choice for or against Project Olive: (Use back of page for more comments)

The Amazon facility will have far reaching negative effects both north and south of it. Traffic congestion is the major effect.

Signature: Elaine McCooly Address: [redacted]

Please return survey to me either by mail or email, I will be taking returned surveys to town hall on July 10th.

Thank You,

Betty Lou Tranter

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

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Reasons for your Choice for or against Project Olive: (Use back of page for more comments)

Keep Grand Island Green! Less traffic/trucks! More people living on Grand Island will have an effect on environment, water/sewer system, new housing developments, schools will have more kids

Signature: Lyndee M. Sauer Address: [redacted]

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Thank You,

Betty Lou Tranter

Betty Lou Tranter
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

From: Anita Wierzba
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:44 PM
[REDACTED]
Subject: Project Olive (Amazon)

Hello Betty Lou

I am against Project Olive and have emailed my letter to the Town Board. I have attached the letter you put in my mailbox (the envelope glue stuck to the paper) and a copy of my Town Board letter.

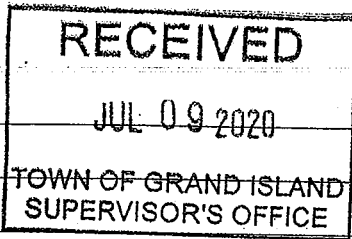
I fear they did a proper environmental review (short eared owls and rare bats were listed) for the property. Once developed, the land can never be farmed again.

I do not know how much taxes Amazon will actually pay Grand Island or if they will get a 10 year tax break.

I think this is a great project for some place else in WNY - Summit Park Mall or Boulevard Mall to mention a few places.

Good luck tomorrow and thanks for your efforts.

Anita Wierzba
[REDACTED]



~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~

July 8, 2020

- Mr. John Whitney
- Mr. Mike Madigan
- Mr. Peter Marston
- Ms. Jennifer Boney
- Mr. Tom Wigati
- Mr. Brian Higgins

Dear Mr. Supervisor and Town Board Members:

Please find the attached letter written in 1991 which to us is remarkably relevant to the Olive Project (Amazon) and is very fitting to what is happening now in 2020 on Grand Island.

There are so many negative issues and more continue to surface. We assume many have already been brought to your attention. However, we would be remiss not to point out some of the more detrimental issues which would undoubtedly result early on, and soon after but definitely long lasting.

First and foremost Grand Island as we know and enjoy it today will never be the same none can honestly believe that the homeowners of

Grand Island will be better off as a result of this project.

Rural Suburbs will be no longer - 24/7, 365 days a year will destroy the north end of the island at a minimum.

We have listed these issues.

- This will be an eyesore rising into the sky.
- noise from trucks, cars and shipping vehicles
- lights from vehicles and parking areas 24/7 day in, day out forever
- traffic of cars and smaller trucks on West River Rd due to the Bedell Rd entrance or coming from Long Rd.
- traffic volume on roads, bridges and the thruway
- wear and tear on the North and South bridges and roads and then the costs to repair all of this
- noise from all these vehicles being heard day and night (we already hear some thruway traffic now)
- there will be infrastructure needs, also wear and tear and maintenance on water and sewers
- pollution from exhausts, noise and air quality will be affected
- changes in land surfaces and building concrete structures will

- effect surrounding water and areas causing wetness and flooding in those areas that don't exist now
- destruction of habitat, the floral, fauna and water forcing animals into surrounding neighborhoods
 - bringing mice, rats, garbage and filth
 - increase for need of protection and emergency services - police, fire EMT and health
 - exit roads on and off Grand Island are a concern, especially in any emergency situations. Who wants to die because a heart patient got stuck in traffic?
 - change in zoning for this project needs to be rejected. This would never be allowed for a housing development of this size or homes to reach these heights
 - over reach into regulations and rules of building codes
 - a resident would never be given this consideration or zoning
 - economics maybe better be served in other areas of WNY, perhaps they can benefit more but not in this area
 - and its not just the proposed location of the Olive project it would

be a disaster if built anywhere on Grand Island

- from a more practical point Niagara Falls (The old Walnut Sams area) or elsewhere seems far more suited as a site given access to the NYS thruway and Canadian entrances and exits.

- who profits from (Amazon) Olive Project it certainly won't be the residents who make up our town

- (Amazon) The Olive project will manipulate our town to give its own desired end, then abandon the community when its fortunes dictate. After the exploitation of Grand Island when its usefulness to (Amazon) the Olive project is gone, Grand Island residents will be left holding "the bag" and forever paying for it

- Home values would undoubtedly decrease and suffer

- by the way we have been paying taxes for well over 50+ years has Amazon paid their fair share ever (80 meals donated doesn't cut it!)

- this project belongs in an industrial area or a commercial park NOT in the backyard of residential homes.

This is our home - Would you want this in your backyard? I think NOT!

- if this project happens it would be a non-stop parade of building equipment, supply trucks and materials bringing noise, dust and vehicles which this construction would bring and then repair work
- we have already experienced drivers disregard for the West River Rd speed limit and must only assume the situation will worsen. West River Rd and Bedell Rd are now patched together by tar and probably won't last much longer as traffic would increase and overwhelm them
- Grand Island doesn't need this ridiculous project - let it go elsewhere!

We moved here for the beauty and peaceful living which is now threatened. Our children grew up in a beautiful neighborhood. If this project happens children won't be able to be playing outside in the neighborhood (This has been an issue in areas of other Amazon locations) due to 24/7 noise, traffic and air pollution. This includes usage of the West River Bike Path.

And most certainly, Amazon employees will add further risk to spreading the Corona virus to Grand Island residents for the foreseeable future.

Let the voters and other residents collectively make this monumental decision. We would much rather prefer to have this issue decided the same way that you were elected. If only the members of the elected town board can vote then each and everyone of them must vote and exercise their obligation on behalf of the Grand Island voters. Vote NO and get it done now!

We can't go back if you make this decision the wrong way. All of Grand Island will suffer!

One definition of "olive" is "the fruit of the tree with a hard stone and bitter pulp" - something for you to think about.

The points of concern we have addressed are only some of the seemingly endless number of negative issues that must be addressed and factually answered.

Sorry that we rambled on in our letter, but it is very difficult to voice our opinions otherwise - feel free to share our letter.

Sincerely,
Arlene J. Yaksich
Arlene J. Yaksich
James W. Yaksich
JAMES W. YAKSICH

████████████████████
Grand Island, New York ██████████
September 27, 1991

Mr. LaVerne C. Luther, Supervisor
Mr. Robert Swan, Councilman
Mr. James Pax, Councilman
Mr. James Sharpe, Councilman
Ms. Marion Fabiano, Councilwoman
Town of Grand Island
2255 Baseline Road
Grand Island, New York 14072

Dear Mr. Supervisor and Town Board Members:

I have been in attendance at several of the Town Board Meetings at which the Acquest Properties proposal for the industrial development project on Long Road had been discussed and now feel that I would like to voice my opinion on this issue. First of all, I will tell you that I am against this project in any way, shape or form. Therefore, I agree with the many others who oppose this project and ask you to submit this to a general vote of the people of Grand Island. Since I am not versed in law, by copy of this letter, I am asking Richard J. Couch, our town attorney, to please advise me and the township as a whole as to what the particulars are in regards to the law, in order to have this matter presented to the voters as a referendum in the next election or special election. The ramifications of a project of this magnitude are enormous and potentially devastating to the Grand Island we now enjoy and would like to preserve.

Certainly, I need not point out the long list of negatives that would result from such a dramatic change to Grand Island.

Please do not let the profiteers dictate to you what they believe is best, because quite honestly, it is not in Grand Island's best interest, but theirs, and theirs alone. What would be done to the land and lifestyle here could not be undone if it ever came to be. Don't let this happen. Please do not believe that it will be better here on Grand Island, it will not. The industrial development from the start will be an eyesore and hazard to all, but much worse, it will worsen daily life on Grand Island for all of us. No one can justify the outcome of such a project, nor can anyone honestly believe it will benefit the people who live here.

This is a bad idea from the beginning and you should not try to balance the pros and cons because you cannot; there are just too many negative aspects to deal with. I think you have understood that from day one and have seen and heard it at every meeting held on this matter.

The people who live on Grand Island are not naive and certainly do not want to be patronized by the developers who portray their project as some God-sent salvation to the residents of Grand Island. The developers, who ever they really are, should be recognized for what they are, and not regarded as individuals who have Grand Island in their best interest. Their commitment to Grand Island is diametrically opposite as ours, the people, at least the vast majority of us who live on Grand Island.

The newspapers and tax records are full of cases of developers who have reaped the profits and run, leaving debt, more debt and little else behind. Their motives are so transparent I think you all can easily see what is best for Grand Island; today and in the future.

Think about it, don't be duped, the impact study was brought and paid for, it is standard procedure and everyone knows it.

If you fail to recognize the people, the essence of what your position is about, then you have failed to do your job.

When an issue is this volatile, and has the significance that it does to the people, and the potential to impact so negatively so many of us and our children, now and more importantly, in the future, please do not disregard the voice of the people here on Grand Island. Put this issue to a referendum. Let the people decide the question, not the chamber, not the industrial agency, not the developers, not the ones who the developers have solicited, not even the Town Board, let the voters decide.

We all have an opportunity here; let us exercise our right to vote, not simply speak on the subject.

And finally, if the referendum route is not a viable legal avenue to decide the question, then postpone your final decision until such time that you can change the laws and ordinances within your authority to deny this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James W. Yaksich

cc: R. J. Couch
Quality Quest Council
West River Homeowners Association

Pattie Frentzel

To: John Whitney
Subject: RE: Project "Olive"

-----Original Message-----

From: Joann Vanderheite [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 10:52 AM
To: John Whitney <jwhitney@grand-island.ny.us>
Subject: Project "Olive"

I wish to be counted as expressing my Total opposition to this project as a detriment to the Town of Grand Island both presently and for the the future.

JoAnn Vanderheite
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Pattie Frentzel

To: John Whitney
Subject: RE: Project Olive Inquiry

From: michael.ceccato@gmail.com [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:34 PM
To: Town Board <TownBoard@grand-island.ny.us>
Subject: Project Olive Inquiry

Dear Grand Island Town Board Members,

I am looking for some information, honesty and transparency.

With regard to Project Olive, is there anything in the town code that would prevent this project from going through? Does the town have any say on if this project can move forward, outside of details around a height variance or other such variances? Additionally, do you have a timeline as to what this may look like?

If this project is approved, my wife and I have some serious decisions to make. I am willing to bet this will be true for other current island residents as well.

If there is nothing that the town can do to prevent this project from coming to fruition, it is only fair to the residents that you are transparent with that information sooner rather than later.

Best Regards,

Mike Ceccato
[redacted]
[redacted]

Pattie Frentzel

To: John Whitney
Subject: RE: Amazon

From: Patricia Becker [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 2:38 PM
To: John Whitney <jwhitney@grand-island.ny.us>
Subject: Amazon

Hello,
As a citizen and tax payer of Grand Island, I would like to express my total disapproval of the proposed Amazon project. I believe it would have many terrible consequences, long and short term, for our very unique town. I hope that you will do everything within your power to keep this project from being approved and moving forward. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Patricia V. Becker
[REDACTED]

Pattie Frentzel

To: John Whitney
Subject: RE: Amazon debacle

-----Original Message-----

From: Judy Schorb <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 12:31 AM
To: John Whitney <jwhitney@grand-island.ny.us>; Mike Madigan <mmadigan@grand-island.ny.us>; Peter Marston <pmarston@grand-island.ny.us>; Jennifer Baney <jbaney@grand-island.ny.us>; Thomas Digati <tdigati@grand-island.ny.us>
Subject: Amazon debacle

I love Grand Island & have lived here since 1964.....it is inconceivable to think Project Olive/ Amazon would consider putting this behemoth warehouse & trucking facility here. The truck congestion on the Island & bridges will be horrible. The air & noise pollution & destruction of habitat is not acceptable. There are other areas off Island that have brown fields where this warehouse belongs.

We have a volunteer fire department here, there is no way we could handle a large fire or emergency.

Amazon will cost us more devastation than any taxes they MIGHT pay.

I am absolutely not in favor of this project!!!

Judith Schorb
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Pattie Frentzel

To: John Whitney
Subject: RE: Please Support Project Olive

From: Cole Kline [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Town Board <TownBoard@grand-island.ny.us>
Subject: Please Support Project Olive

Hi all,

My name is Cole Kline and I'm still a Grand Island resident and voter, I live at [REDACTED] I'm writing to enthusiastically voice my support for Project Olive and encourage the Board to sign off on the project and the economic development that will follow!

Project Olive will be a massive boon for the town economy, reviving old businesses and creating new ones in the vicinity, spreading the wealth across Grand Island. This project will bring quality jobs to the Island and allow more people from off-Island to experience our town and our culture. As other businesses are struggling and the town is losing taxes, this project will eventually contribute significantly to the town's coffers, allowing us to finally build a community center or aid in so many other projects we've been waiting so long to break ground on due to funding.

As Amazon becomes a bigger part of the country's way of life in the coming decades, having a facility so close will be a massive plus, speeding up deliveries, increasing the productivity of the Grand Island community, and offering the potential for future expansion. This is a business that WON'T ever leave, much like tenants like HSBC and others downtown.

I highly encourage and hope the Board votes to support Project Olive and the substantial economic boon that will follow.

Thank you,
Cole

Khristian Cole Kline
George Washington University '19
B.B.A. Business, Economics & Public Policy Political Science, Public Policy focus

Pattie Frentzel

To: John Whitney
Subject: RE:

-----Original Message-----

From: Melissa Kormash [mailto:mkormash@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 9:05 AM
To: John Whitney <jwhitney@grand-island.ny.us>
Subject:

Dear Mr. Whitney,

I am a Grand Island resident. I am strongly opposed to the Amazon warehouse distribution center that was discussed at the Town Board meeting on July 6, 2020. Allowing the development of such a project will the destroy the fabric of community life we all enjoy today. Our concerns, as you are aware, include air pollution, traffic congestion, wildlife and wetland endangerment. This project has all the negatives and no positives for our community. I am asking that you oppose this project and protect out way of life on Grand Island. Thank you.

Melissa Kormash

Pattie Frentzel

From: Julie Harlach [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 8:27 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: NO AMAZON!

I live at [REDACTED] Grand Island, NY 14072

I STRONGLY OPPOSE Project Olive/Amazon.

I live on Grand Island because of the peaceful atmosphere. I pay a fortune in taxes to live on Grand Island. I want my voice to be heard. NO AMAZON!

I do not want to smell or see trucks/pollution. Animals are already losing their green space on Grand Island, where will the displaced animals go with the construction of Amazon? NO AMAZON!

Traffic! Huge concern! We could be welcoming 1000's of Amazon employees onto our Island. Traffic is already a problem during peak hours. I DO NOT WANT TO SEE TRUCKS & ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC ON Bedell Rd/NW Island. The speed limit is 45mph on Bedell. Most cars exceed this and travel closer to 50-55mph +. I am afraid to let my dog out in the front yard, for fear of him getting hit by a car. In the plans, you want to put an entrance to the Amazon facility? NO AMAZON!

Every neighbor of mine is extremely upset about this project. Especially, that decisions and plans are being made without including the residents, surrounding the potential facility. NO AMAZON!

There are plenty of other sites, for this to be built. I support Amazon as a company, HOWEVER, I do not want this ENORMOUS facility being built in my RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD!

NO AMAZON!!!

Pattie Frentzel

From: Tabitha McNamara [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 11:36 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Amazon

I am a Grand Island resident and voter and I am writing to say that I am against the Amazon development here on Grand Island. Our bridges are already overloaded with traffic both residential and tourist. To add the added traffic of additional large vehicles would be a extreme hardship for the residents of Grand Island. There are also the environmental concerns. We have wetlands and wildlife that would be destroyed by this development. Grand Island does not need to be destroyed by development and corporations! We are surrounded by areas better suited for industrial development such as the Town of Tonawanda or Niagara Falls. Please reconsider allowing Amazon to build here on Grand Island as the negative impacts by far outweigh any possible positive benefits. Thank you. Tabitha McNamara

Sent from my iPhone

Pattie Frentzel

From: Baybruth [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 9:28 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Stop Amazon!

Please protect our Island and our families. Do not let Amazon build a warehouse/ distribution center on Grand Island. We are a small community and an "actual island" with only 4 bridges to get on and off the Island. We live near Buckhorn State Park and already hear the increased noise pollution over the North Bridge with the loss of all of the Ash trees in the park. We now feel the bridge vibrations in our house (shakes) since the tolls were removed. I have to commute to South Buffalo every day for work and we already have traffic and backups on the bridges in the morning and evenings almost every day! If we add more delivery trucks and commuters it will be even worse! Also how will our schools handle more children if more people/ Amazon employees move to the Island. We already have very large classes! We have one middle and one high school! Please keep our Island, the mighty Niagara River and our 2 State Parks safe, clean and natural. Stop Amazon!

I was born and raised on Grand Island, and chose Grand Island to move back to, to raise my family after college. My father has been a family practitioner on the Island for over 50 years! We love our friends and neighbors, we love our little community, we love our Island. I hope you will choose to keep it clean, safe, and Amazon-free!!!

Best regards,
Jessica Ruth
[REDACTED]

Pattie Frentzel

From: Jermarsala [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 8:57 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Amazon

To whom it may concern. I am extremely concerned about the negative impact that the Amazon project will make to our community. I am sure you have heard all the concerning items. I will make this point. Can and Island this size really handle a business the size of Amazon?

Thank you for reading.

Jerry Marsala
Grand Island Resident

Pattie Frentzel

From: Chris Golinski [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 4:40 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Project Olive

M. Supervisor Whitney, we would like to know if TC Development Buffalo that is involved in Project Olive (a.k.a. the worlds second largest warehouse on Grand Island) is a development Company associated with projects in Ho Chi Ming City VietNam? You should know. Please respond.



Chris Golinski

Pattie Frentzel

From: Joel Bedell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 2:54 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Project olive

There needs to be more transparency and plain language on this. Really let the people know what is going on. Would like to know about traffic and environmental issues without having to decipher 2000+ pages. Have independent studies been performed? Need in person public hearings not hiding behind covid reasons to have online meetings.

Joel Bedell
Grand island resident

Sent from my iPhone

Pattie Frentzel

From: Lisa Bagley [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 1:43 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Opposition to Amazon

Dear Supervisor Whitney and Town Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Project Olive here in known and referred to as Amazon. I feel that this project will negatively impact the fabric of our beautiful Island and would forever change its footprint in a purely negative way. This is hands down the most important decision that we as a community have faced thus far. I am extremely disappointed that this issue was not tabled so all residences could appear in person to voice their questions and concerns. I have various concerns that include the Environmental impact of the footprint of the site, Traffic concerns, questions regarding the quality of jobs and if in the future they will be eliminated due to automation and robotics, the questionable ethics of Amazon including tax evasion and granted tax breaks. Considering the current economic situation what would happen to the building if the facility were built and was to close? What if there was a fire? We all know that our Fire Department could not possibly respond based on sheer size? Property value is also a huge concern for me, if I were looking to purchase a beautiful home on the water I would not be happy with a giant monstrosity of a building behind me and all of the noise and aggravation that comes with it. This project makes zero sense to me, the tax revenue generated from the project with not be worth giving up everything else. I would like to know the actual numbers of the revenue that the town would receive.

The environmental factors are a huge concern for me, I know for a fact that most of that property was zoned wetlands by the DEC years ago. For example, I cannot build on my back lot as it was deemed so a few years ago, so how is it that it's ok for Amazon to do so? My family have lived on this Island for over 80 years now. We have seen many changes that I feel have had a negative impact. The West River Bike Path is a good example, in the spring this year I was seeing Bald Eagles, Osprey, and other beautiful birds return to the riverbank. Since opening and now that it is busy with people walking dogs and bicycling the birds have gone. What is going to happen to all the animals that call that 145 acres home? They will be pushed out spilling into people's backyards and onto the 190. Various species of wildlife, some that are even endangered, will not have a home. We will no longer hear the songs of the frogs in the spring but will hear trucks running non-stop. So much wildlife has been observed in the area, and any development will destroy their habitat. Any planned development of the property should consider the continuing impact to local wildlife habitat. Because of the several endangered species I feel that this area should be protected and preserved. I have contacted the DEC and EPA regarding this issue.

Traffic concerns are another issue to consider. Since the closure of the Parkway the speeding on West River Road has been out of control. This is a know issue to all of you and something that is not under control. Just yesterday I called to report a car that was traveling over 80 miles an hour at least on the 30 mile per hour road. The traffic is extremely dangerous, and it will just be a matter of time before something tragic occurs. The traffic is terribly busy on the road with the current companies on Staley Road such as Thermo Fisher and Fresenius Kabi. Traffic from Amazon will only contribute to the problem. Traffic and safety of pedestrians are major areas of concern. Traffic jams regularly occur if there is bad bridge accident. Living here we know that its not uncommon for the traffic from the North Grand Island Bridge to be backed up across the whole Island to Long Rd. With the

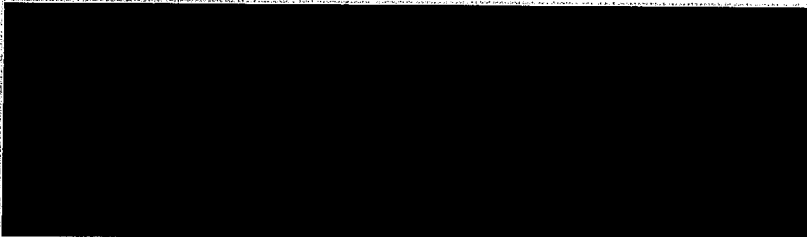
proposed number of 1000 trucks a day I can't possibly fathom that our traffic infrastructure can support this number? What will happen if there is truck accident on the bridge and fire trucks or ambulances can not cross? You know we do not have a hospital so what will happen if there is a serious emergency or major disaster? The local neighborhood traffic will disproportionately surge during morning and evening rush hours, causing traffic issues during critical times for the existing four Grand Island neighborhoods. The traffic surge during morning rush hours will also negatively impact safety for children who are waiting for the bus in the mornings. Some of these children still walk to bus stops and not all of them are picked up at their house or escorted by their parents. In general, the area traffic is continuing to increase, and heavy traffic is already common at times from Long Road to Bedell Road, which may not have been anticipated during this proposal. I remember them saying that they would have varied shifts that would not affect resident travel, and the times were right when everyone is trying to leave and come home. We all know that getting off the island in the morning is busy from 7 to at least 830 and coming home that now ranges anywhere from 330 to 630 at night. There is no way that Amazon employees and trucks will not add to the already congested 190 and bridges.

That brings up my next concern of the noise. We can hear the thruway now so there is no way that the residents will not hear the non-stop trucks. I also cannot even imagine the noise from the construction of this evil project. Residents along Long Road, West River and Bedell with all have to deal with this. This Island will no longer be a beautiful and peaceful place to call home. If we wanted to live in a city, we would but we don't. This is one of the many reasons people love the Island.

Air pollution and quality is yet another concern. How much pollution does 1000 trucks a day cause? With the recent battles with Tonawanda Coke I imagine this would be of similar concern. How do we know that Amazon will abide by current laws and regulations?

Let's discuss property value, I can only imagine that this will negatively impact us. Like I said previously, who would like to live in a beautiful neighborhood with a beautiful river and in your back yard you have this monster building producing traffic and noise nonstop. The footprint of the project concerns me, I frankly would have a much better feeling about if I didn't have to see it. I feel that the other project that consisted of multiple companies and building would be a much better use of the land and provide better and higher paying jobs and provide more revenue for the Island.

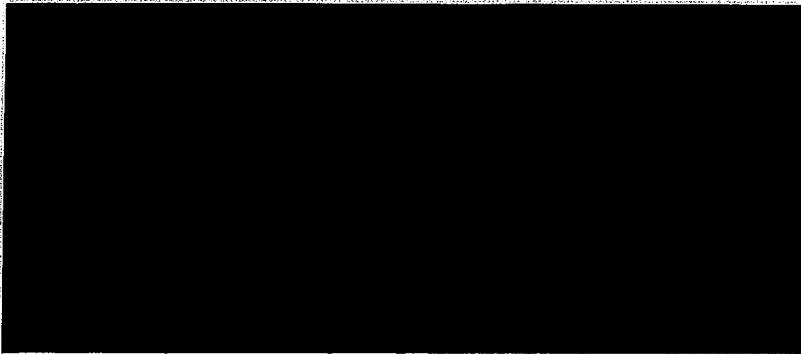
Considering the current state of the Economy how can we know if this is not a huge risk. Many of the items off Amazon come from China and we know that our relations are dangling from a thread. What will happen if we build this facility and a few years later its empty? All that destruction for nothing, and who would ever consider leasing or buying that building. Then we the taxpayers are left the burden. We were lucky that Thermo Fisher moved into Cannon that was empty for how long? We have business along the Boulevard that are empty, empty stores in the plazas. Times are tough so what will happen if this goes under? This has happened it's a real concern. I urge you all to read a recent article that I came across in the *New York Times*. [Amazon's Big Breakdown](#)





Amazon's Big Breakdown

The pandemic briefly brought the Everything Store to its knees — by prematurely bringing about a future it has l...



knees — by prematurely bringing about a future it has l...

Quality over quantity, this project has said to bring over 1000 jobs, we all know that a vast majority will be likely be warehouse jobs that top out at \$15.00 an hour according to Indeed. I would rather see the other project go forward that would provide quality jobs and thousands of more jobs. People who live in the surrounding communities already have jobs, and not jobs but careers I do not foresee people making a career change to come work at Amazon for \$15.00 an hour.

Amazon also has a strong history of tax avoidance, and unethical practices when it comes to its employees. According to recent investigative reports published by *The Atlantic* "Every day, ships, trucks, trains and airplanes bring an estimated 21,500 diesel truckloads of merchandise to 21 Amazon warehouses in the four-county region," they wrote. Amazon trucks last year created \$642 million in "uncompensated public costs" for noise, road wear, accidents and harmful emissions, the report said." Amazon is not a good company to work for! They have recently been criticized about the safety of warehouse employees during the pandemic. Several employees have sadly died due to being infected with Covid 19 at Amazon's warehouses, and now Amazon will have to address the wrongful death suits due to their greed and negligence. Also, who is to say that these so-called jobs will not eventually be eliminated with technology such as automation with robotics and drones? Part of my last job was in fact eliminated due to automation, so this is a real threat.

Amazon will be detrimental to the area, nearly all residents in our Grand Island neighborhoods are completely opposed to Amazon as this will cause traffic and safety problems, cause noise and air pollution, destroy local wildlife habitat, and potentially lower the property values of the existing community.

I urge you to disapprove the proposed Amazon facility, and from recent meetings and discussions with my neighbors, I know my opinions are shared by many who have not managed to attend meetings or write letters and emails.

Thank you for your continued service and support of our community.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bagley and Sandra Nelson

Pattie Frentzel

From: Michael Rayhill [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Public Comments; Thomas Digati; Pattie Frentzel
Subject: MICHAEL W RAYHILL PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM 7-6-2020

Hi Tom,

I would like to extend my thanks to you and the board for your generosity in allowing me time to finish speaking after losing my connection. I appreciate it.

Please find my comments from last night to be entered into the public record below:

"Thank you to the Town Board for having me here this evening. My name is Michael W. Rayhill and I am a third generation Islander.

TC Buffalo's proposal to build a 3.8 million sqft warehouse just south of Buckhorn State Park is an affront to the collective values of our community. Its disregard for our core tenets is evident in its failure to address our Comprehensive Plan's emphasis on Natural Resources.

What I find particularly outrageous is the details of their Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) would not be revealed UNTIL the town board passes this zoning request and they can have their application reviewed by our local development agency, denying our citizens of any transparency in understanding the true tax burden on our community. This PILOT could be granted without any evidence/ commitment to job creation and if approved, the community would have no recourse for securing the lost income if Amazon doesn't deliver on their job promises. Typical PILOTS last from 7 - 10 years

Multiple studies have shown that Amazon warehouse jobs are relatively low- paying, dangerous and many times do not provide benefits. It is likely that the majority of these workers will not reside on Grand Island and will not be adding to our tax revenue.

In addition, for every thousand Amazon warehouse workers employed, you lose about 200 UPS/USPS jobs with good benefits through attrition or layoffs. How does that help economic development?

TC Buffalo's proposed rezoning of this site to PDD and the near doubling of the current height variance is not only programmatically reckless with residential, state park & international proximities, it would be grossly incompatible in scale to the fabric of the town. Its presence would create an atmosphere of permissiveness for future corporations to burden our tax base and aging infrastructure and ruin the residential character of our town.

TC Buffalo is trying to sell the idea that a "healthy commercial component is critical to the Town's tax base." How is inverting our town's land usage healthy? How is compromising our air and water quality healthy? How is an incessant army of Amazon tractor trailer trucks and thousands of additional commuter vehicles healthy? How is repelling prospective homeowners from moving here adding to our image and whose interests does it serve? How about the economic and cultural dividends that come with being an internationally significant environmental destination?

I request that the Town Board commit to an independent economic cost/ benefit analysis as motioned by the Economic Development Advisory Board and REFUSE to submit to this rezoning and HALT the development of this project. Anything less will be acknowledged by residents new and old as a moral failure and the lynchpin to Grand Island's undoing. Thank you for your time. "

-Michael W. Rayhill

Pattie Frentzel

From: Maureen Phillips [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 12:12 PM
To: Public Comments; Thomas Digati
Subject: Submission of my Town Board Meeting Comments from 7/6/20

Tom, here are my comments from last night's meeting for public record:

For the Grand Island Town Board and Supervisor:

"My name is Maureen Phillips. I reside at [REDACTED] I am a native Grand Islander and a military veteran. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views.

1) I request an expert peer review of the environmental study agreed to in the 7/6/20 Town Board workshop earlier this evening and will coordinate with you about accomplishing that objective.

2) P.I.L.O.T., or payment IN LIEU OF TAXES means exactly that. In the end, if you approve a rezoning to allow Amazon to build its warehouse there will be no tax benefit to residents of Grand Island because the initial payment is the ONLY payment and is not enough to help with Islanders' property taxes. The monetary gains they profess are nothing compared to the cost personally and financially to our residential community. Our habitat, infrastructure, and town culture cannot endure such a monstrosity.

3) I ask for full transparency of ALL transactions between Grand Island government representatives and TC Buffalo going back two years when this idea first began. This includes any previous informal agreements made by anyone on the Long Range Planning Board with TC Buffalo or with any member of the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce. As you know, any vote on an issue by town government in which it has not fully disclosed facts about the proposal will nullify a vote, just as is true if a resident would come to you with a request to rezone his/her property and withheld information, so too you are held to ethical and legal standards to be fully transparent about agreements made without your constituents' knowledge.

4) I am asking Supervisor Whitney and Town Board members to push back at TC Buffalo/Amazon and tell them to get off of the proposed site where neighbors have seen them walking around and using equipment already when THEY DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO PROCEED. As our elected representatives, we are asking you to contact TC Buffalo and tell their client to get Amazon off of Google maps and to stop advertising jobs for immediate hire on Grand Island when THEY DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO PROCEED. This is predatory tactic they are using is alienating your constituents whose perception is that you are not being transparent about what TC Buffalo feels free to presume. If you must, file a legal order that they cease and desist such predatory behavior that reveals clear intent not to act in good faith and arrogant unwillingness wait to see how our community decides.

5) I am asking Supervisor Whitney and Town Board members to tell TC Buffalo/Amazon that they are not to act presumptively about this project. We elected a new town council on its promise of transparency and that they would represent ALL people of our small community. Please do exactly that. You do not work for the Long Range Planning Board, and you do not work for the Chamber of Commerce. You work for, and are paid with our tax dollars, your constituents on Grand Island. Protect your neighbors, local business owner-friends, and our future from a lasting, irreversible mistake that will destroy the town we love.

6) A 3.7 million square foot, 9 story tall warehouse with 69 (138??) loading bays, with 1000s of trucks going back and forth across our roads and bridges in 24/7 operations will cause permanent damage to land that is now pristine. Such a

project DOES NOT FIT WITH THE CHARACTER OF OUR COMMUNITY. I AM PLEADING WITH YOU TO VOTE NO ON THE QUESTION OF REZONING THAT WOULD PERMIT THIS PROJECT.

7) I ask you to encourage TC Buffalo/Amazon to instead use one of the 25 empty industrial warehouse sites in Buffalo or to build in the wide open spaces in Niagara County where they would better fit.

I am not against business growth. I am against the wholesale takeover of our town by a global corporation that abuses its power."

Pattie Frentzel

From: KATHERINE HASTINGS [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 10:48 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: PROJECT OLIVE

My name is Katherine Hastings and I'm a resident of this beautiful and unique island.

The decision you make regarding Project Olive, i.e., Amazon, will be the most important decision that you will ever make as our elected officials for this community. It will have deep and long-lasting implications for all of the citizens of the town and it is a decision from which there is no retreat. Once we walk through this door, we will never be able to return to the existing character and nature of the island that we have enjoyed for decades. **So before you make up your minds, I recommend that you do the following:**

Visit a community like the one in New Jersey or Southern California with a 1M sqft Amazon warehouse where Amazon made and broke promises regarding traffic, noise and air pollution. **The Buffalo News reported recently that an Amazon warehouse one-third the size of the one proposed for Grand Island had 1,161 trucks pass PER HOUR, or upward of 21,500 per day. Children couldn't play outside because the air quality was so bad. The trucks aren't limited to highways; they take whichever roads they please to avoid traffic delays — the very traffic delays they cause.**

Spend a week in a hotel near the facility. Watch and listen to your surroundings. Measure the ACTUAL sound levels around the facility at multiple times of the day. Try to sleep at night with the constant beep-beep of trucks backing up and entering and leaving the facility. Breathe the air, if you can.

Talk with local homeowners and listen to what their ACTUAL experiences have been since the warehouse was built.

Talk with local business owners and listen to what their ACTUAL experiences have been with promised growth.

Talk with the local council and government representatives and listen to what their ACTUAL tax revenues have been and the ACTUAL costs and burdens placed on their infrastructure and public services have been.

Talk with ACTUAL workers in the facilities and listen to how they describe their working conditions and the quality of their jobs.

This is the ONLY way you will be able to understand what life really will be like here if this project is allowed to proceed. **Not by reading through 2000+ pages of documentation or listening to consultants paid for by Amazon that do not have the interests of Grand Islanders at heart.**

Then ask yourself one question: **WOULD I WANT TO LIVE IN THAT COMMUNITY?**

If the answer is no, which I'm certain it would be, then you owe it to the people of Grand Island who placed their trust in you to protect us from this Goliath project and vote **NO** on TC Buffalo's (Amazon's) requests for a zoning change and major variances to our currently approved ordinances and Comprehensive Plan.

Pattie Frentzel

From: CJ Rayhill [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 10:43 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Project Olive & My comments at the July 6th Town Board Meeting

I am sending in my comments from the Town Board meeting on July 6, 2020 to ensure they become part of the public record.

I recently began to familiarize myself with Project Olive by reading through the documentation posted on the town's project site. What I learned there made my heart sink. I began to have conversations with friends, neighbors and family to find out how they felt about the project.

Given the suppression of community engagement and information sharing during this pandemic, I was dismayed, but not shocked, to learn that many of them hadn't heard about the project. Others did not realize the size of the project and the irreversible impact it would have on Grand Island.

So, with friends and family, we decided to form a group to provide information and outreach to our fellow Islanders. We are the COALITION FOR RESPONSIBLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR GRAND ISLAND (or CRED4GI). You can find us on Facebook groups under that name.

We purposely chose this name because we are not against economic growth and jobs for our community. We support the businesses that currently reside on Grand Island because they provide good jobs, add to our tax base and community and don't destroy the natural habitat of our sensitive environment. We want nothing more than to seek additional businesses that match that profile. However, we believe Project Olive and its clandestine tenant, which we believe is Amazon, will achieve none of those things.

Instead, it will permanently harm our community.

Because our options are limited during this pandemic, we have posted an online petition outlining our specific concerns. We ask Grand Island residents to read it and indicate their support by signing.

Specifically, this petition requests four things of our elected body:

WE STRONGLY URGE THE TOWN BOARD TO DO A COMPREHENSIVE COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS BEFORE PROCEEDING TO A VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE. We are very concerned, based on our research of

similar projects across the country, that we will not see any appreciable tax benefits from this project for a period of 10-20 years, while we bear the resulting costs in the interim.

WE STRONGLY URGE THE TOWN BOARD TO OFFICIALLY IDENTIFY THE TENANT BEFORE ANY VOTE TAKES PLACE ON THE ZONING CHANGE. If, as we strongly suspect, the tenant for this project is Amazon, they have a documented history that we can properly evaluate and compare to the facts being presented in this proposal.

WE STRONGLY URGE THE TOWN BOARD TO DELAY ANY VOTE ON THIS ZONING REQUEST UNTIL CITIZENS WHO CANNOT PARTICIPATE ONLINE CAN PARTICIPATE AND VOICE THEIR INPUT SAFELY IN-PERSON. The pandemic has made it extremely difficult for effective communication to take place across our community. Many of our residents aren't even aware of this project and our elderly residents do not have access to technology and are cut-off from this debate. Given the scale of this project and its related documentation, a minimum of 3 public hearings should be conducted prior to any vote.

And lastly, **WE STRONGLY URGE THE GRAND ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL TO DENY THE ZONING CHANGE.**

Please consider signing our petition: <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/stop-amazons-warehouse-on-GI-NY>

Cathy Rayhill

Pattie Frentzel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 10:36 AM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Thomas Digati; 'CJ Rayhill'
Subject: Public Comments on Project Olive- PLEASE USE THIS VERSION

NOTE: this version better reflects comments made during the Public Comment section of the Town Board Meeting on 06-Jul-2020. Please use this version instead of the last version that was submitted prior to the meeting.

Mike Rayhill, [REDACTED]

Good evening! Thank you for letting me speak tonight. I would like to address my comments to the Town Board regarding Project Olive, or -as many of us seem to now know- Amazon's intentions of building a distribution warehouse on Grand Island. My comments are focused on the tax differences (if any) if this project were to move forward and come to Grand Island.

I understand that there is currently an application for a Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) at the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) for Project Olive. The terms of this application have not yet been shared with the public, perhaps because they are unknown or perhaps because they have yet to be negotiated. I also realize that no one on the Town Board has any obligation to answer questions raised during the Public Comment section of a meeting. In that regard, the questions which I would like to pose are rhetorical. However, I suggest that each and every voting member of the Town Board should have answers to these questions and distribute those answers to the public prior to taking any further action on Project Olive.

Who would derive a benefit (if any) from such a payment (PILOT)? Who might be negatively affected by the lack of tax payments (PILOT)?

I realize that there are many possible compensations by either a developer or their client which might be offered to local, county, state or federal entities to help offset the infrastructure costs of industrial development such as User Fees, Special Assessments or other incentives. Would the Town Board kindly share their understanding of the terms of the PILOT, the status of the PILOT application, any User Fees, Special Assessments, incentives, and any other financial impacts to the citizens of Grand Island as a result of Project Olive?

Pattie Frentzel

To: John Whitney
Subject: RE: No to Amazon!

-----Original Message-----

From: Mandy Myers [mailto:mandy@grand-island.ny.us]
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 9:07 AM
To: John Whitney <jwhitney@grand-island.ny.us>
Subject: No to Amazon!

Hello Mr. Whitney,

I am a lifelong Grand Island resident, and I am writing to implore you to not allow Amazon's plans to continue with Project Olive. This would be ruinous to our wildlife, and to the quiet community that so many equate with Island living. The traffic would be horrendous and would impact EVERYONE living or commuting here. PLEASE do anything in your power to prevent this from moving forward. Your community is counting on you.

Sincerely,
Mandy Myers
GI Resident
GI Teacher
GI Tax Payer
GI Voter

Pattie Frentzel

From: Chris Golinski [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Project Olive-Amazon Warehouse

I am a Grand Island resident residing at [REDACTED]. I am strongly opposed to the Amazon warehouse distribution center that was discussed at the Town Board meeting on July 6, 2020. Allowing the development of such a project will destroy the fabric of community life we all enjoy today. Our concerns, as you are aware, include air pollution, traffic congestion, wildlife and wetland endangerment. This project has all the negatives and no positives for our community. I am asking that you oppose this project and protect our way of life on Grand Island. I also ask that the Town Board allow the residents of Grand Island decide what type of community we want through a Public Referendum on this project. Thank you.

Chris Golinski

Pattie Frentzel

To: John Whitney
Subject: RE: Project Olive Comments

From: James Bellanca [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:13 PM

To: John Whitney <jwhitney@grand-island.ny.us>; Mike Madigan <mmadigan@grand-island.ny.us>; Peter Marston <pmarston@grand-island.ny.us>; Jennifer Baney <jbaney@grand-island.ny.us>; Thomas Digati <tdigati@grand-island.ny.us>

Subject: Project Olive Comments

To the Grand Island Board,

My family, starting with my great-grandmother over 100 years ago, have lived, worked, and vacationed on Grand Island for generations. My parents moved here in the '60's, raised their family here, and still live down by Beaver Island. I and one of my brothers and our families all live here. Grand Island is part of our DNA as a family. We try to spend our money locally when we can. We bike and run along the West River bike path, run through Scenic Woods, hike in Buckhorn, and enjoy the water and park setting at Beaver Island. My father taught at the middle school for decades.

The Vision for Grand Island set forth in the Comprehensive Plan states, "a relaxed, island lifestyle with small town living. We will capitalize on our natural assets ... and create opportunities for growth to sustain our community for the future while striving for harmony between the natural environment, development, and our heritage", along with several values, which include: "Natural resources are our biggest asset", "We are a unique island community", "We're more than just a pass through".

I was initially open minded about Project Olive, and thought, "Better the devil I know," thinking another entity may be worse. But the more I learn about their impact in other small communities, and the more I think about it, the more it strikes me that a large facility, such as that proposed with Project Olive, supporting one tractor-trailer every 3 minutes over the bridges, that paves over a significant amount of land, including wetlands and homes for countless birds, mammals, and other wildlife, is contrary to the Comprehensive Plan and our Island Character. And, contrary to what most of the people of Grand Island want their community to be.

It will only create noise, pollution, and traffic. It will destroy property values, our small island community atmosphere, the quiet peacefulness for so many on the north end of the island, and homes for so many wildlife creatures. Our clean air will be polluted with exhaust from 4,440 trucks a day. Studies have shown how living near truck routes increases cancer risk, including being higher incidences of lung and breast cancer, causes asthma in children, increases the risk of heart disease, and kills wildlife. Most of us who live here, do so because of the rural-like nature of life here. We can listen to birds that are everywhere around us, watch fox and deer play in our yards, look for eagles and other raptors in the sky, and see families of waterfowl in the river. This facility will destroy a large swath of that on part of the island, and remove those habitats forever. Once land is paved over and built on, it won't go back to nature easily. We'll hear trucks instead of birds. Smell exhaust instead of the river. See giant lights instead of the sunset.

And then there's the fears that it will turn that section of the Island into just another industrial area akin to what is in Tonawanda or NT, or the City itself. The people here spent so much effort fighting against a truck stop in the town center - this is so much worse than that, and might possibly be the camels nose under the tent if it's allowed in. Next we could see proposals to support the site on other land near it. The north end around it could turn into an industrial zone with truck stops and gas stations. And even if that doesn't happen - even if it's just the warehouse - We'll lose part of what makes Grand Island special.

Not to mention, there's many, much more suitable sites for them to build, where they don't have the restrictions of the bridges. Where they won't impact so much natural habitat. Other places where they won't impede on a special, unique way of life. Where they won't destroy something beautiful. The only good reason I can think of for why they chose Grand Island is because it's probably cheaper, and being a small town, they probably feel like they can run over us with their size. They try to confuse the issue with a document that's thousands of pages long, hoping most won't read it. They try to entice us with promises of large tax revenues. What they don't say is the offsets to that in so many other quality of life issues, and the private cost to individuals. They also don't tell the story of how they've negatively impacted other communities with much smaller warehouses.

We must push back; we must be vigilant on protecting our land, our values, our community, our way of life. We must say No to this effort to pave over our land, our property values, our views, our Island character, our rural-like neighborhoods.

Please vote No on Project Olive. Keep Grand Island beautiful, green, and the unique Island community that it is. Don't turn us into just another paved over suburb in pursuit of tax dollars that wipe out what makes us, us.

James Bellanca

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Pattie Frentzel

From: Four Roommates in Grand Island [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 4:46 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Public Health and Air Quality Concerns Regarding Project Olive Proposal

To: The Grand Island Town Board
Subject: Air Quality Concerns and Public Health Issues Related to Project Olive Proposal
Date: July 6, 2020

The Project Olive Amazon warehouse proposal is a 24/7 distribution center of almost 4 million square feet with acres of paved surfaces to which constant vehicular traffic will be occurring on the premises and on all the roads leading up to the site. The vehicles will be tractor trailers, utility vehicles and passenger vehicles and they will be using the roads and the site 24/7. The proposal estimates the numbers of the vehicles per day which amounts to hundreds per hour with constant non-stop traffic, and also notes an increase in traffic that will occur during the holiday season. The emissions originating from the movement of the vehicles does not take into account the number of hours of cumulative idling by the engines on the site waiting to park, waiting for loads, and waiting to leave the site.

With non-stop constant vehicular activities comes perpetual and persistent air pollutants and negative impacts to air quality, all which are scientifically documented to be detrimental to human, animal and environmental health. Air pollution causes or exacerbates health conditions such as asthma, lung diseases, and cardiovascular issues. Studies have found associations between air pollution and brain deterioration, stunted development and behavioral changes. The micro-particulate levels produced in the emissions are one of the primary causes of asthma in children and a new study shows that the higher the level of particulates in the air, the greater the indications of psychological distress in people. Micro particulates are produced in abundance when a cold diesel engine warms up.

It is worth noting that the New York State Vehicle Idle Restriction Law sets forth a five-minute limit for idling diesel trucks and buses but exempts vehicles when the temperature is below 25 degrees. Under this exception, all of the trucks at Project Olive would be allowed to idle for up to two hours. With all of the vehicles located in a concentrated area (hot spot), the loading of atmospheric contaminants would be significant. If Project Olive receives 1,000 trucks per day that would be equivalent to 5,000 minutes of idling time – assuming they follow these regulations, which are extremely difficult to enforce – for a total of 83.3 aggregate hours of air pollution. When adding the allowed winter season exemption, the potential for pollutant loading increases.

Studies conducted over decades have consistently shown how air pollution has negative health effects and impacts lives, and has also been noted in the local Peace Bridge truck traffic impact studies:

- American Journal of Public Health: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1448429/>
- Public Med: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21913504>
- NYSDEC Phase II Study Bridge Traffic, Air Pollution and Health Issue: https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/air_pdf/pbfinalreport.pdf
- Respiratory Health Peace Bridge Neighborhoods: <https://buffalonews.com/2012/09/12/researcher-decries-asthma-rates-near-peace-bridge/>
- UB Research Summary: <http://www.buffalo.edu/news/releases/2004/10/6941.html>

- Health Effects Institute: <https://www.healtheffects.org/publication/air-toxics-exposure-vehicle-emissions-us-border-crossing-buffalo-peace-bridge-study>
- Media story Peace Bridge Air Quality and Related Health Issues: <https://www.investigativepost.org/2013/05/25/asthma-epidemic-near-peace-bridge/>
- Traffic Equity Buffalo, New York: <https://ppgbuffalo.org/files/documents/environment-traffic-equity-in-buffalo-new-york.pdf>

There are documented air quality issues at the Peace Bridge along with serious health issues related to vehicle emissions. The Project Olive Amazon warehouse will have many of the same air quality issues that led to the degradation of public health around the Peace Bridge plaza and highlights the many issues that have to be addressed, not the least of which is the control of diesel engine particulate matter.

The negative impact on air quality needs to be carefully evaluated to ensure that the public health of the citizens - particularly children and senior citizens - is not compromised by the emissions from diesel-powered trucks. From the documents provided on the proposal, it does not appear that Project Olive has given this important air quality issue much consideration. The Project Olive proposal also need to provide plans to demonstrate how the warehouse will minimize engine idling and to ensure NYS agency regulations for vehicle emissions and air quality are followed and met.

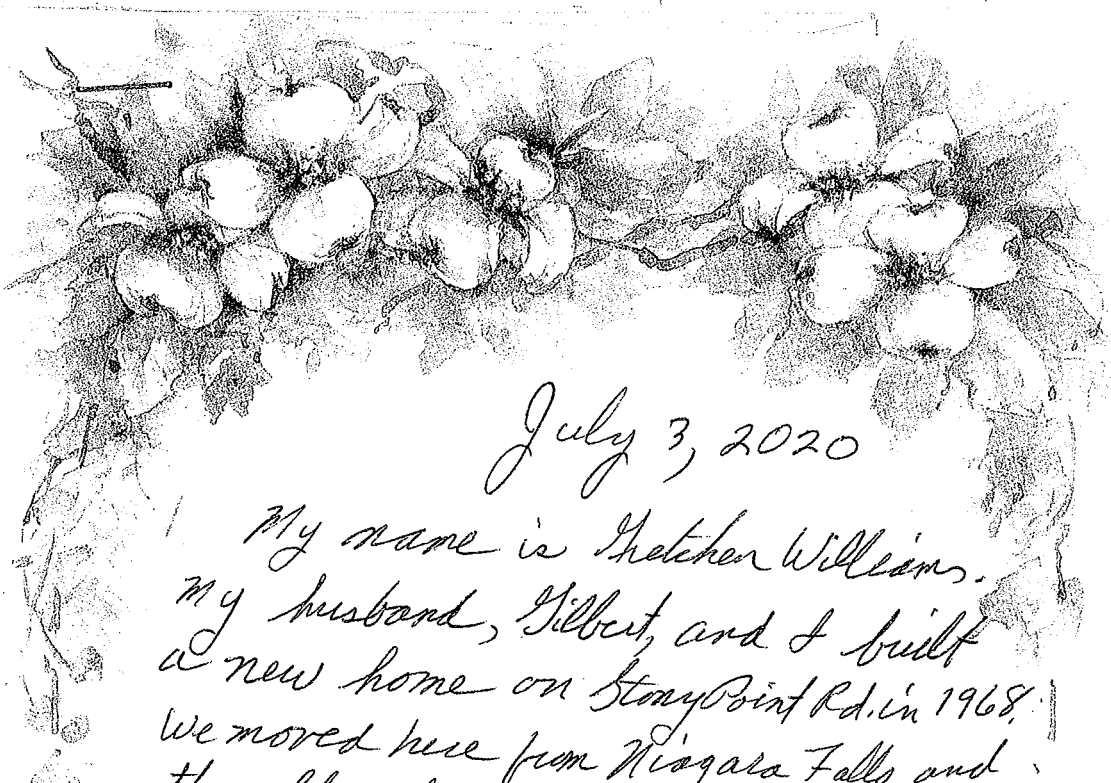
Such an immense and busy facility placed in the center of the Island will not only distribute the air pollutants to the adjacent residential neighborhoods, but the pollutants will also be carried to the eastern portions of the Island as the winds predominantly originate from the west.

The Grand Island community deserves consideration for the safety of our health and that of the environment to which our *Natural Resources* are considered a priority in the 2018 Comprehensive Plan. **A comprehensive yearlong air quality study is needed for this proposal and the study should be done by professionals experienced in the collection of field data for applied models used to predict air pollution impacts.** To assess the air quality impacts, Project Olive needs to do a comprehensive air quality study that includes but is not limited to the following:

- Disclose with specificity the expected number of diesel and gasoline powered vehicles using the facility daily including any that are using less polluting alternative fuel sources. This includes all bulk delivery vehicles as well as daily delivery vehicles and the vehicles brought onto the site by employees.
- Assess meteorological conditions and provide a comprehensive model defining air quality expectations during the four seasons of the year.
- Conduct an air quality study in which data are collected over a one year period taking into account seasonal climate variation, wind patterns, other physical effects like thermal inversions that can adversely impact air quality and the loading that is expected from traffic moving at speed or congested along the adjacent Route 190 corridor
- Model air quality based on traffic patterns, traffic volume, wind, weather conditions and other factors - the wind will carry vehicle emissions and air pollution throughout the nearby area and downwind
- Identify the scope and magnitude of the "emission hotspot" established by the day to day operation of Project Olive and the downwind neighborhoods (including their population makeup) that are downwind of the project.
- Assess air quality impacts during discrete meteorological events like thermal inversions or periods of aerodynamic downwash or aerosol distribution and analyze the potential adverse health-related effects during the localized thermal inversions that often occur along the Niagara riverfront. (These are the same localized phenomena that trapped and held toxic benzene emissions from Tonawanda Coke in the nearby neighborhoods, including Grand Island)
- Commit in writing to methods, best management practices or treatment equipment options that would curtail emissions or collect and filter pollutants while vehicles are loading or unloading at Project Olive.

Research has shown that the operations involved with Project Olive will negatively affect the health and well-being of the people and the environment of Grand Island. The Town officials need to address this serious and long-lasting impact on the community.

Thank you,
Nicole Gerber



July 3, 2020

My name is Thatcher Williams.
My husband, Gilbert, and I built
a new home on StayPoint Rd. in 1968.
We moved here from Niagara Falls and
thought we had moved to heaven! The trees,
the greenery and the friendly people made us
very happy. Over the years we raised two
sons. When our younger son joined the Navy
and met many sailors from all over the U.S.
He wrote home that he thought he must have
grown up in a bubble! He loves his home-
town. Over the years I haven't been
happy with additional apartment buildings,
but to let a seven story warehouse come to
the island would destroy our heaven!!

Sincerely, Thatcher

Pattie Frentzel

From: John Whitney
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 3:54 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: FW: Proposed Amazon Distribution Center

John C. Whitney, P.E.
Town Supervisor

Town of Grand Island
2255 Baseline Road
Grand Island, NY 14072

direct 716-773-9600 ext 616
cell 716-425-2511
fax 716-773-9618
email jwhitney@grand-island.ny.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Goupil [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 2:44 PM
To: John Whitney <jwhitney@grand-island.ny.us>
Subject: Proposed Amazon Distribution Center

Dear Mr. Whitney,

Amazon is not a good fit for Grand Island. Our bridges are a bottle neck for people trying to go to work or get home as it is. Have you ever tried to cross the bridge from Buffalo on a Friday night? Many trucks will make this situation worse. I can't think of a worse place to add more traffic.

The environment on Grand Island would suffer. Taking pristine woods, wetlands, and fields for this massive building is such a waste for the people of Grand Island, and the creatures that live there. It's close to Buckhorn State Park and the lights, noise, and fumes would surely affect the birds nesting and migration.

Keep Grand Island a good place to live. Please stop the Amazon project.

Diane Goupil
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Pattie Frentzel

From: John Whitney
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 3:56 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: FW: Amazon

John C. Whitney, P.E.
Town Supervisor

Town of Grand Island
2255 Baseline Road
Grand Island, NY 14072

direct 716-773-9600 ext 616
cell 716-425-2511
fax 716-773-9618
email jwhitney@grand-island.ny.us

From: Sally Waterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 2:36 PM
To: John Whitney <jwhitney@grand-island.ny.us>
Subject: Amazon

I have lived on this island since 1960, and I intend to die here.
I am totally against letting Amazon take all that land for any reason.
Please stop this madness.
The traffic is already getting to be a problem and Amazon will double it.
Let's keep the island with it's small town atmosphere.
Sincerely, Sally M. Waterson

Dear Project Partners:

As we are all aware, Project Olive formally submitted an application to the ECIDA on Tuesday. At the direction of the Project Olive team, there will be no formal press announcement of the application, but project partners are welcome to respond to media inquiries they receive when the public hearing notice is circulated, within the limitations of the non-disclosure agreement we are under.

To that end, please find attached the talking points Invest Buffalo Niagara will be utilizing for any media requests we receive, referencing only data points made public through the ECIDA application. Additionally, Invest Buffalo Niagara has a standard procedure of not commenting on further project details while a project still open and active. This filing is an important step in the overall process, but much work still needs to be done! Thanks for all of your hard work through this process. And thank you as always for your partnership,

Matt

Matthew Hubacher
Research Director - Invest Buffalo Niagara

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Invest Buffalo Niagara Talking Points Project Olive June 25, 2020

- A public hearing notice was released today regarding “Project Olive” which is considering a site on the Town of Grand Island.
- The proposed project seeks to construct a 3.7 million square foot warehouse/distribution facility on 145 acres.
- The potential project would create 1,000 new jobs and carries a capital investment of \$310 million.
- It is validating and incredibly encouraging to have Trammell Crow, a well-respected national developer, take interest in Buffalo Niagara.
- The proposed tenant of the facility was made public in the release, along with developer Trammell Crow.
- It is further validating to have Amazon’s continued interest in our region, following the successful and collaborative projects in Lancaster and Tonawanda.
- While we do not comment on active projects, it’s always exciting to see potential development in our region moving forward as we continue to grow our regional economy.
- We will continue to work with our public and private sector partners to capture meaningful investment and job creation opportunities for Western New York.

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Pattie Frentzel

To: John Whitney
Subject: RE: Amazon Warehouse Proposal

From: Chris Golinski [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 8:13 AM
To: John Whitney <jwhitney@grand-island.ny.us>
Subject: Amazon Warehouse Proposal

Mr. Whitney, I am a Grand Island resident residing at [REDACTED]. I am strongly opposed to the Amazon warehouse distribution center that was discussed at the Town Board meeting on July 6, 2020. Allowing the development of such a project will destroy the fabric of community life we all enjoy today. Our concerns, as you are aware, include air pollution, traffic congestion, wildlife and wetland endangerment. This project has all the negatives and no positives for our community. I am asking that you oppose this project and protect our way of life on Grand Island. Thank you.



Chris Golinski