

I am Henry Boitel. I am a 45-year resident of Rockville Centre. I speak as an individual and not representing any party or group.

I will speak about this 35 page list of fees you intend to raise or create in your effort to increase the County's income.

There was a time that the average family could easily afford to bring a child to a baseball game or to a Broadway show or to a movie. The cost of such activities has sky rocketed.

Practically everything we do is now metered in some way. "Click click", the charges are building up for what have become necessities of life for people of all ages.

This, at a time that a large part of the population is not seeing any increase in their own income.

It is within that context we must view increases of fees by government, particularly for the use of facilities by individuals or for the production of income by business.

The parklands, beaches, nature walks, public meeting rooms and athletic facilities owned by the people of Nassau County have a value of billions of dollars. Those facilities belong to all of us, regardless of social or economic standing.

When fees are imposed for their use, they are a minor expenditure, for some. For others, those fees compete with the necessities of life.

Every time you raise a usage fee or license or permit, you give the wealthy more breathing room and you discourage use by the poor and the middle class. The imposition of fees, across the board, is the worst example of **regressive** taxation.

One of the worst aspects of government in Nassau County is the large number of semi-independent taxing authorities and fee setting authorities. Each authority

looks at the reasonableness of its own levies, utilizing its self-created measurements.

No official in the county is looking at the overall burden of taxes and fees upon the various segments of the public. Do you have before you a public impact study with regard to the imposition of these fees that you are asked to raise today?

Today's exercise is one more example of County government focusing only on how to plug a hole that NIFA is forcing you to address.

It should be noted that NIFA, itself, is moving in the direction of becoming a political pawn that helps to paper over the huge hole into which the County is, nevertheless, descending.

When are you going to start coming up with ways to save money for the People. Financially astute communities, elsewhere, are doing exactly that, without placing the burden on the young, the aged, the disabled and the growing ranks of poor.

- Saving money can be by better public utilities at lower cost.
- By elimination of significant gaps in the public transportation system.
- By attracting major corporations from other parts of the country and the world.
- By a community based wireless communications and internet system – operated as a utility and not parasitically.
- By getting real value for money in the hundreds of millions of dollars now expended on patronage.
- By not introducing fines and traffic traps for the primary purpose of raising money.

I suggest that, instead of blindly adopting these substantial fee increases, you go back to the drawing boards, not to plug a hole, but to create a foundation for the future of Nassau County.