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## **LONG ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL HOLDS FOURTH MEETING, MOVES FORWARD WITH STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**

*Council informs on workgroup progress and presents Transformative Project Selection Criteria*

The Long Island Regional Economic Development Council, co-chaired by Stuart Rabinowitz, President of Hofstra University, and Kevin Law, President of the Long Island Association, met today and conducted its fourth meeting, which was open for public observation. The meeting was held at New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) de Seversky Mansion in Old Westbury. The council is continuing its work to establish a successful five-year Strategic Plan for economic development in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

During today's session, council members provided updates on the activities of the Natural Assets, Workforce and Education, Innovation and Industry Clusters, and Infrastructure – which includes the Nassau Hub Committee – working groups. In addition, Council Co-Chair Stuart Rabinowitz delivered a review of the Transformative Project Selection Criteria, which have been developed and improved over the past month and formalized with significant contributions from members of the council and the Writer's Group.

The criteria will help the council to identify and evaluate priority projects, and guide them in determining which transformative projects are most likely to have significant and long-lasting benefits on the region. In applying the criteria, projects will be rated based on 10 specific elements: Consistency with Regional Vision and Objectives; Collaboration and Project Support; Leveraging of Other Funds; Workforce Development and Quality Jobs; Long-term Employment; Short-term Employment; Financial Sustainability; Small and MWBE Business Inclusion; Implementation Timeline; and, Overall Impact.

“Adopting the Transformative Project Selection Criteria today was a significant milestone for the council, and I am pleased with the open and collegial process that led us to such clear and

substantive guidelines,” said Stuart Rabinowitz, Co-Chair of the Long Island Regional Council and President of Hofstra University. “I am confident that this comprehensive evaluation system will serve the council well as we move into the project assessment phase.”

“It’s evident from today’s meeting that the council has hit its stride,” said Kevin Law, Co-Chair of the Long Island Regional Council and President of the Long Island Association. “We’re seeing focus and consensus from our working groups as they hone in on specific needs and appropriate investment opportunities. Their work arms us with the tools and the confidence we need as we continue drafting a winning Strategic Plan this month.”

“The Long Island Regional Council’s work is coming together with many writers, nonmember work group participants and Regional Council members playing key roles in developing a consensus-driven Plan, project identification component and implementation strategy,” said Andrea Lohneiss, Executive Director of the Long Island Regional Council.”

“NYIT is pleased to welcome the Long Island Regional Council, and to support its members in their mission to create opportunities and enterprises that will secure Long Island’s economic growth,” said NYIT President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D. “NYIT is doing its part to nurture young minds in the areas of energy technology, green industries, high-tech manufacturing, and applied science, all fields which will provide graduates with the skills and education to join a healthy Long Island workforce.”

The next Long Island Regional Economic Development Council meeting will be held on **October 25 at Molloy College’s Farmingdale/Republic Airport facility**. For additional meeting details, to view the Transformative Project Criteria Guidelines, to make suggestions and to keep up with the Long Island Regional Council, please visit: <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/long-island>.

Furthermore, the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council encourages public participation and feedback through public forums, outreach, community meetings and via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The Long Island Regional Council, which is comprised of a diverse group of 28 area leaders from the private and public sectors, labor, trade associations, higher education, and community-based organizations, is working to create a five-year strategic plan for economic development in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Created by Governor Cuomo, the Regional Economic Development Councils represent a fundamental shift in the state's approach to economic development—from a top-down development model to a community-based approach that emphasizes regions' unique assets, harnesses local expertise, and empowers each region to set plans and priorities.

The Long Island Regional Economic Development Council is one of ten regional councils across New York that will serve as a single point of contact for economic activity in the region. Through their strategic planning process, the Councils will identify and expedite priority

projects that demonstrate the greatest potential for job growth. As part of the initiative, up to \$1 billion in state resources will be accessible to eligible economic development projects through existing program grants and tax credits.

Each Regional Council will develop a plan for the development of their region, which will provide a regional vision for economic development, address critical issues and opportunities, and lay out an implementation roadmap for future growth. The state will work with the Regional Councils to align state resources and policies, eliminate unnecessary barriers to growth and prosperity, and streamline the delivery of government services and programs to help the Regional Councils carry out their plans for development.

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