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## **LONG ISLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNOUNCES PUBLIC FORUMS**

*Public is invited to two community sessions across the region intended to share ideas for an economic development strategy*

The Long Island Regional Economic Development Council (LIREDC) today announced details of two public forums designed to gain input and aid in the creation of the council's five-year strategic economic development plan for the Long Island Region, which includes Nassau and Suffolk counties.

"The Long Island Regional Council has been inspired at the level of public interest and engagement in this critical initiative for both our region and for the State of New York," said Stuart Rabinowitz, Co-Chair of the Council and President of Hofstra University. "Public participation and feedback will supplement and shape the activities of our working groups and play a critical role in the development of our Strategic Plan."

"Governor Cuomo has assembled the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council with a wealth of talented individuals," said Kevin S. Law, President and CEO of the Long Island Association, "but putting together this five year plan is a public process and these forums will provide the public the opportunity to have their ideas and thoughts heard."

The community forums will be held:

- **Suffolk: Wednesday, September 7, 2011, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

Bank of America Building  
Lower Level Conference Room  
300 Broadhollow Road

Melville, NY 11747

**Nassau: Monday, September 12, 2011, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

Mack Student Center  
360 Hofstra University  
Hempstead, NY 11549

The meetings will begin with an overview of the purpose of the regional council. Next, invited guest speakers will discuss issues and opportunities facing the region. There will also be an open forum for individuals to provide the council with ideas and suggestions related to economic development. To allow as many to participate as possible, each individual will be limited to 3 minutes of speaking time. The council will also accept written testimony at the meeting.

Individuals who plan on attending are encouraged to RSVP via email to [Loretta Crawford](#) or by calling 631-435-0717. It is not necessary to RSVP to attend, but it will assist the planning process.

Created by Executive Order 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.

To learn more about each region and their economic development plans, visit [www.nyworks.ny.gov](http://www.nyworks.ny.gov).

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