



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF **ISLANDIA**

Village of Islandia . . .
Second to None

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor, State of New York
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

On behalf of the Incorporated Village of Islandia, I am writing to express my strong opposition to Amendment AA to your proposed 2022-23 state budget. This proposal is an outrageous assault on “Home Rule,” a concept found in Article IX of the New York State Constitution which allows villages, towns, and municipal entities to control local zoning, “property affairs and government.” It will also impact our quality of life, which is one of the most attractive components of our Village.

This proposed amendment, if enacted, would mandate multifamily housing in our Village and allow accessory apartments on properties zoned for single-family use. This is a dangerous bill because it fails to recognize the distinctions among rural, suburban, and urban communities and hinders the Village’s right to govern itself and force a “one size fits all” approach to housing. Adding rental units in the Village will adversely impact our utilities, emergency services, school districts, sanitation collection, infrastructure and environment.

Local control and decision making are the primary tenets of federalism and “Home Rule” — an idea that state and local governments and residents should be able to make decisions that impact their quality of life whenever possible. Including this as part of the budget is a cowardly attempt to shield a liberal housing agenda from the public at large. This is the same technique that was used to impose cashless bail on our law-abiding citizens. In order for our elected representatives in Albany to vote against this amendment, they will have to vote against the *entire* budget, forcing them to choose between funding schools and imposing this dangerous housing mandate on local municipalities.

Clearly, Amendment AA lacks any modicum of comprehension, common sense or regard for the desires of our constituents. That is why I implore you to remove this destructive piece of legislation from the proposed state budget and put back the ability to make local zoning decisions to where it belongs: our Village Board.

Sincerely,

Allan M. Dorman

Allan M. Dorman
Mayor