

**SITINGS OF MEMORIALS & SYMBOLS AND
NAMING OF COUNTY FACILITIES, PARKS & ROADS COMMITTEE**

Of the

Suffolk County Legislature

A meeting of the Sitings of Memorials & Symbols and Naming of County Facilities, Parks & Roads Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on October 25, 2007.

Members Present:

Legislator Lynne Nowick - Chairperson/District #
Legislator Lou D'Amaro - District #17
Linda Bay - Representing Legislator Losquadro/Minority Leader
Ralph Borkowski - Representing Department of Public Works
Carol Walsh - Representing Tom Isles/Suffolk County Planning Director

Members Not Present:

Brian Bielanski - Representing County Executive Steve Levy
Paulette Bartunek - Director/Suffolk County Human Rights Division

Also in Attendance:

Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Nowick.
Justin Littell - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro
Kara Hahn - Director of Communications for Presiding Officer Lindsay

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

*(*The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. *)*

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Good morning. Welcome to a very short meeting of the Sitings of Memorials and Symbols and Naming of County Facilities, Parks and Road Committee; you got that?

We only have one resolution on our agenda, but I think today Frank Belsito would like to -- the Commander of the American Legion Pearl Harbor Memorial Post 1941 is here. If you want to come up, that's fine, otherwise we'll consider this.

MR. BELSITO:

I would like to. Good morning. My name is Frank Belsito, Commander of the American Legion Pearl Harbor Memorial Post No. 1941 from Port Jefferson, New York.

The Post received its American Legion Charter in 1983 and since has been keeping the memory of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941 very much in the attention of the public. I'm sure you have heard the words of President Franklin Delanor Roosevelt about "A Day in Infamy."

I want to thank Legislator Joseph Caracappa for introducing Resolution No. 2026-07, to authorize installation of signs along CR 97 at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge in Centereach, New York. I have requests -- I have two requests to make about the size and erecting of the signs. That sign measures -- I'm sorry. The sign should measure a minimum of 30 inches by 60 inches, and that the sign be erected on two upright, metal poles. This committee supports for the signs on CR 97 will continue in helping Suffolk County residents to remember Pearl Harbor.

I really thank you very much for your attention, but I would like to also, on page two, that the Pearl Harbor Memorial signs on the east and west side of Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge on Middle Country Road measure 39 inches by 79 inches. Doris has a replica of the sign that was given to us on the day of dedication back in 2003 and this sign measures 18 inches by 36 inches. And if you notice, that if you were approaching the bridge and you were about 200 feet away from it, this sign would be very small.

Now, I know that there are -- there is another sign on CR 97, that's for Sergeant McNaughton, and that sign measures 18 by 24 inches, and believe me, it's difficult to really see it. That's why I put these measurements in because I think it's important that the people at least get to see the sign and be able to read it.

So I encourage you to support this and I thank you very much for your attention. If you have any questions, I'd be glad to answer them.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you very much. The only thing I can say is that the resolution does not include the size of the sign, and that's because Public Works usually determines that to keep whatever size they put within the safety of the traffic flow. So we have a resolution before us to put up signs but it doesn't say the size, that we don't consider; that's Public Works, they do it pursuant to whatever their standards are.

MR. BELSITO:

Do you have any direction that I can work with Public Works on?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, I assume you could call Public Works and talk to them, but that's -- that's not in the purview of this committee. Legislator D'Amaro, you seem like you --

*(*Brief discussion held off the record*)*

LEG. D'AMARO:

Good morning.

MR. BELSITO:

Hi.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I want to start off by first thanking you for taking time out of your day to pursue this. It's certainly the least we could do in return for you, your organization and the veterans that have served this country is to try and help you to keep that spirit and memory alive, so I appreciate your time here this morning.

This bridge right now, does it have any other signs indicating that it's the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge?

MR. BELSITO:

On Middle Country Road on the east and west side, the sign -- there's a nice, big sign of the measurements that I gave you and it's very noticeable. When we go there on December 7th, we always have a couple of Pearl Harbor Survivors there and we put a couple of flowers up and you'd be surprised how many people blow their horns just noticing that the vets are there.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I'm just -- so there are signs already?

MR. BELSITO:

Yes, that's on Middle Country Road going east and west.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Oh, on Middle Country Road.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That's a State Road.

MR. BELSITO:

We're talking about on Nichols going north and south.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I see, I see, okay.

MR. BELSITO:

That's what we're trying to get today.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. No problem in my mind in supporting your efforts to do that. What I would suggest, you asked about the size of the sign and how can you have some input on that. What I would recommend is this would have to go -- after a recommendation is made from this committee, it would go for a vote in the Legislature, I believe. And at that time, if you -- I'm sure Legislator Caracappa will let you know when that's coming up for a vote, come on down and usually there would be a representative from DPW here and maybe you can open up that dialogue, okay?

MR. BELSITO:

Good. I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And as Legislator D'Amato said, you could speak to Legislator Caracappa and maybe he could

intercede with you and speak to Public Works directly.

MR. BELSITO:

Sure, good.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So we have a resolution to *authorize installation of signs along CR 97 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge (Caracappa)*. I'm going to make that motion, second by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***That motion is carried (VOTE: 5-0-0-2 Not Present: Brian Bielanski & Paulette Bartunek)***. And I think it would be really great if that happened on December 7th which is not too far away.

MR. BELSITO:

That's what we're trying to strike for, right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Well, thank you all.

MR. BELSITO:

But I thank you all very much and thank you very much for the input and direction.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And thank you, Mr. Belsito.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 A.M. *)