

THOMAS R. SUOZZI  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



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Dear Friends,

I would like to welcome all who have come today to attend Vision Long Island's 2003 Smart Growth Summit.

Planning for the future of Long Island is a difficult task. Each area of our island has its own distinct advantages (*excellent beaches, parks and public schools*) and disadvantages (*traffic, over development and aging downtowns*). To combat these problems, as well as to further add to the progress and benefits of living on Long Island, it is important that we all work together to implement our broad goals for the future development of Long Island.

In fact, my major initiatives for 2004 include the beginning of a long-term effort to grow Nassau County's tax base while preserving our suburban quality of life with a focus on addressing traffic congestion and the environment. We are also looking towards the creation of a Nassau County Planning Federation to build a consensus at the County, Town and Village level for zoning and planning standards that will promote smart growth. In addition, every effort is being made to enhance Nassau's environment. We will formulate an Environmental Improvement Plan which will establish a consistent strategy to develop brownfields, secure open-space, conserve and produce energy, preserve drinking water, protect our waterways, manage storm water, control traffic, and insure a safe and healthy future for the next generation.

I am committed to working with incoming Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy and Vision Long Island to plan for the overall future of Long Island to incorporate our mutual "*Smart Growth*" initiatives into the Nassau County Master Plan to encourage the development we all want on Long Island and discourage the development we do not want.

Please accept my sincerest regrets for being unable to join you today. Members of my staff continue to work with Vision Long Island are here today to make sure today's discussions and happenings are reported back to me.

I hope to see you all next year.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Suozzi  
County Executive