

June 27, 2020

Hon. Donald X. Clavin, Supervisor Town of Hempstead
1 Washington Street
Hempstead, NY 11550

RE: HEMPSTEAD WORKS

Dear Supervisor Clavin:

Over the past few months, I have had to prevail on the services of Hempstead Works. The supervisors and staff members I met deserve the utmost praise for their knowledge, professionalism, dedication to service, and passion for their work.

While I certainly understand that budget considerations are of paramount importance - and should be - I sincerely hope that in the future, the Town Council will carefully consider preserving Hempstead Works. The agency's excellent programs cannot work without the dedicated, accomplished and thoughtful staff who see to it that clients have the opportunity to avail themselves of the agency's much needed services.

In a time when many people have used Covid-19 as a reason not to do anything, I have had the privilege of connecting with several staff members who have been working remotely, reaching out to the agency's clients, including me, in an effort to make sure that no one is left in limbo. I believe another counselor, Annette Spradley, is working remotely as well.

I have been communicating with Deidre Washington, Etta Banks, and Clevy Merchan, all three of who respond quickly to my inquiries. Deidre and Clevy made sure that I was properly enrolled in excellent Zoom workshops led by Etta Banks as well as computer classes from Nassau Community College. I cannot say enough about Deidre, Clevy and Etta as well as the agency's comprehensive services.

Unfortunately, I do not have the names at hand of the other staff members and two supervisors I met before the building closed in March. However, what I say about Deidre, Etta, and Clevy holds true for the staff members I have either spoken with or observed. They respectfully deal with clients who come to them with varied backgrounds, levels of education and work experience.

You can be proud of The Hempstead Works Career Center and your truly dedicated employees.

Very sincerely,

DME

cc: Yvonne Morrissey,
Supervisor, Hempstead Works Career Center