



Town of Huntington

... News Release From The Town of Huntington ...

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Lupinacci to Gaughran: Do Your Homework and Stop Misleading Our Residents for Political Gain

Huntington Town Supervisor Chad A. Lupinacci issued a statement regarding Senator Jim Gaughran's recent attempts to sweep his ill-advised "Yes" vote on the disastrous "catch and release" cashless bail law under the rug by misleading Huntington residents for political gain:

"After Senator Jim Gaughran voted for the ill-conceived and not very well thought out 'criminal justice reform' package, which made our neighborhoods less safe, eliminated a judge's discretion to help keep dangerous people off the streets, created a revolving door for repeat offenders, and mandated victims' addresses and contact information be shared with defendants, the Senator has ramped up his political pandering in an effort to sweep this disastrous failure under the rug.

"Pandering to the fears of Northport-East Northport School District residents, the Senator waved a New York State DEC permit review report for the Northport Power Plant at the cameras during his press conference on January 24, but he didn't have his facts straight when he tried to scare residents into thinking the plant was in severe violation of state and federal air pollution standards. In fact, he had his facts so wrong that not only did LIPA call him out on his staff's inability to understand the meaning of words in the DEC document describing the entire New York metro area – and not just the Northport plant – but [Newsday's January 28 issue of The Point](#) also very publicly pointed out the Senator's huge error.

“You'd be forgiven for believing one of the Northport Power Plant smoke stacks had fallen on the Senator's house just a few weeks ago because it appears he finally noticed the plant was there after a 36-year history in and out of public office.

“It was surprising to see the State Senator calling on State agency LIPA for action now, considering his role in our State government for the past year, and his oversight authority as a member of the Suffolk County Water Authority since 2008, serving as the water authority's Chairman from 2010 to 2018, as a Suffolk County Legislator from 1988 to 1993, and even as a member of the Huntington Town Board from 1984 to 1987.

“In light of the Town's ongoing mediation with LIPA/National Grid and the pending verdict in the 2014 tax certiorari case, I found the Senator's press conference a troubling, reckless and irresponsible attempt at using fear-mongering to score political points.

“Now the Senator is exploiting a recent Town personnel matter for [political gain](#), again jumping to conclusions and getting his 'facts' wrong, politicizing a Town employee code of conduct matter by comparing it to something more nefarious in order to grab headlines.

“Senator Jim Gaughran -- who voted to impose the so-called 'criminal justice reform' that took away a judges' discretion to hold a dangerous defendant and gave us cashless bail for 'non-violent' crimes such as DWI, criminally negligent homicide, manslaughter, stalking, assault, reckless assault of a child, multiple hate crimes, criminal injection of a controlled substance into another person, burglary, arson, and many others – should do his homework before he fails New York residents again.

“I think reasonable people can see political pandering in an election year for what it is: cheap, divisive and unproductive.”

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