Mangano’s DPW Commissioner Underscores Commitment to Rebuilding the Department

Stating that, “This is a sign of an administration committed to protecting the essential services of our county,” the Long Island Contractors’ Association (LICA) has endorsed the decision by Nassau County Executive-elect Edward Mangano to appoint Shila Shah, P.E., as the Nassau County Commissioner of Public Works.

“Mr. Mangano’s decision to name Ms. Shah will ensure the taxpayer gets what he and she are paying for - good roads and safe bridges. Let’s go to work,” said LICA Executive Director Marc Herbst during a news

(Continued on next page)
conference hosted by the County Executive-elect. “Commissioner-designate Shah brings an exceptional portfolio of knowledge and expertise to Nassau County and is sure to have a positive impact on securing federal stimulus funding and state approvals for local road and infrastructure improvements. Her appointment speaks clearly about County Executive-elect Ed Mangano’s intent to put critical resources to their road test.”

Herbst and Shah are both alumni of Polytechnic University’s engineering graduate programs.

**A state that remains indifferent to Long Island**

“Our industry is at a critical crossroad,” continued Herbst, “We have few remaining opportunities to advance projects to keep our roads and bridges safe for the citizens of our region, to provide employment for a workforce suffering from thirty percent unemployment, and to demand accountability from Albany regarding our region’s fair share of investment in infrastructure dollars before they are expended or eliminated from approved budgets.”

“As the state’s bureaucracy has consistently failed to address Long Island’s needs in a fair and consistent manner, more than ever it is up to local representation to make things happen,” added LICA Chairman James Pratt, III. “We look forward to working collaboratively with Commissioner Shah to secure essential resources in a timely manner.”

**Incoming County Executive Meets LICA Board**

Within weeks of being declared the winner of the Nassau County Executive race, and even before taking office, Nassau County Executive-elect Ed Mangano took precious time from his transitional planning to attend the December meeting of the LICA board of directors. He impressed the board with a frank, straight-talking style that focused on the fiscal conditions facing Nassau County and the need to cut expenses while protecting core services. He stressed that righting the flawed commercial property assessment inequities, investing in infrastructure, and pursuing responsible development will be the keystones of his county recovery plan.

The board shared with the incoming county executive its deep concerns over the dramatic reduction of workforce within the county’s department of public works. Mangano shared his belief that many departments have become too top-heavy with management while lacking the employees who actually perform essential services. He is instructing incoming Commissioner Shah to make this crisis in manpower (Continued on next page)
a priority within days of her taking over the Department of Public Works.

**Lighthouse provides insight on prior development success**

The LICA board also queried Mr. Mangano, a former chair of the legislature’s public works committee, regarding his views concerning the proposed Lighthouse Project at Mitchel Field. He observed that the Town of Hempstead is now responsible for determining its fate but that he remains committed to creating balanced and appropriate economic development on the site.

Mr. Mangano cited the redevelopment of the former Grumman site in Bethpage, which under his leadership, went from an empty shell of a Cold War complex to one that has attracted thousands of new jobs, new residential housing and utilities. He stated that regardless of how the Town proceeds he is confident that the Mitchel Field area will be redeveloped on his watch.

**LICA Chairman James Pratt** observed, “It is this kind of practical, common sense approach to charting the County’s course that ensures we can meet the very real fiscal challenges that face county government and every taxpayer. It’s not a press release or a news conference. It’s just quiet, solid leadership.”

**Blizzard Beckons LICA Response**

LICA members answered the call in response to one of the most intense winter blizzards in recent memory.

Payloaders and snow plows from many of its member organizations were used to move tons of snow off of the internal roads of key institutions important to commerce and industry, and reporters interviewed LICA’s newest member, Stasi Brothers, as they prepared their equipment for the onslaught that would follow.

Broadcasters from WCBS-TV and Channel 11 WPIX, were among those that interviewed LICA members as work crews transitioned from masonry and asphalt paving operations to snow plowing under adverse conditions. A LICA hotline was also set up to ensure that municipalities had access to added equipment as various towns declared snow emergencies.

**Region’s heavy construction equipment moved into pre-blizzard positions**

Jim Pratt, chairman of LICA, and Chief Executive Officer of Pratt Brothers, said a dozen pieces of equipment had been loaded on “low beds” some 24 hours before the storm’s arrival, and in advance of moving snow in Garden City and at Nassau Community College.

(Continued on next page)
“It takes seasoned, well trained crews to operate heavy equipment in white-out conditions,” stated Pratt. “Municipal highway departments have men and women who have endured years of that kind of weather and there is a cadre of people among LICA members who also wear that experience as a badge of honor. All of them were behind the wheels of big rigs as part of the storm recovery effort.”

LICA’s members’ commitment to support the efforts of municipalities and crucial institutions such as colleges, hospitals and centers of commerce reflects their ability to assist government agencies tasked with responding to all sorts of emergencies including hurricanes and nor-easters.

**Punitive Politics Harming the Integrity of the Long Island Regional Board**

LICA’s Chairman James Pratt III is characterizing as “cheap shot politics” published news reports that say outgoing Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi dismissed John Cameron as the Chairman of the Long Island Regional Planning Board because Cameron failed to aggressively campaign for his failed reelection campaign.

“This is the kind of punitive action that destroys the integrity of organizations as crucial as the Planning Board,” stated Pratt. “It also soils the legacy of a county executive who consistently told us he was seeking to create a new suburbia by inviting the best and brightest to the table and then, on his way out of office, mocks the very goals of his stated objective.”

Pratt said the construction community is more than appalled. “We are incensed that someone with John Cameron’s credentials, vision and energy should be victimized by such a crass, political maneuver. We are urging that this Long Island leader be restored to the pro bono position of chairman and be allowed to continue his pursuit of economic growth, environmental protection and the strengthening of our collective quality of life. He is a proven, capable professional whose apparent sin is he kept his office above partisan politics.”

Pratt is sending LICA’s position on this issue to the transition team of the Nassau County Executive Elect and that of the incoming County Legislative Majority.

**Register Now for 2010 LICA Safety Seminar on Jan. 8th**

2010 is fast approaching, and next year’s annual LICA Safety Seminar will be held on Friday, January 8th, 8:00am to 2:00pm, at the Sheraton Long Island Hotel, 110 Motor Parkway, in Hauppauge. Registration forms have been mailed to members and our governmental partner agencies. The date is quickly approaching and LICA asks that you register as soon as possible. Please [click here](#) for the seminar announcement and registration form. Registration is free to LICA members, a benefit of your annual dues. There is nominal fee of $20 to non-members to cover food costs.

*(Continued on next page)*
Our association has secured the services of our national affiliate organization, the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), to present a new and exciting program. ARTBA’s Division of Safety and Education has planned a workshop that will prove to be a valuable learning experience. Following an OSHA/FHWA Regulatory Update about what is happening in Washington DC, the bulk of the morning session will be an interactive presentation of “Roadway Safety,” a state-of-the-art training program for roadway, utility and transportation construction. All participants will receive free copies of the program and related materials. After lunch, the New York State Department of Transportation will share the latest regulatory issues from the state’s perspective. LICA expects to offer PDHs (professional development hour) credits for many of the day’s programs.

**Congress Holds Class on Federal Funding for Local Projects**

This past December **U.S. Congressman Tim Bishop** and the other members of the Long Island congressional delegation hosted a workshop for the region’s village, town, city and county officials on procedures and methods necessary to secure nearly $100 million in federal dollars designated for Long Island construction projects. The forum was led by representatives of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). Representatives of LICA and the industry trades were active participants in the day’s events.

Many local officials expressed appreciation for Congressman Bishop’s efforts in organizing this unprecedented event. However, they also expressed frustration with the undaunted regulations and procedures. Brookhaven Town **Superintendent of Highways John Rouse** pointed out that rigid requirements, and the need to provide advance funding for reimbursements up to five years in advance of projects is prohibitive for local taxpayers. LICA Executive Director **Marc Herbst** explained to the media that the thickness of federal highway funding specification manuals was greater than the depth of asphalt overlay sought for the intended projects.

Earlier that day, Herbst, at Congressman Bishop’s invitation, joined the Congressman and a handful of other industry leaders for an exclusive meeting with **Congressman Jim Oberstar (D-Minnesota)**, the powerful chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Herbst described to the Chairman the severity of the 30% unemployment levels in the Long Island construction trades and the urgent need for passage of a new federal transportation capital plan.
Jackson Avenue an Archeological Dig For Federal Funds?

Federal funding for the Nassau County reconstruction project for Jackson Avenue, Syosset, seems to have gone the way of the dodo bird. The funding became extinct because the County failed to consider dinosaur bones and arrow heads.

While the reader may view this as sarcasm it is in fact the simple truth that bureaucrats at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have ruled the project ineligible for Washington funding, in part, because the county did not perform an archeological study as part of the planning process.

LICA Executive Director Marc Herbst testified before Nassau County’s Legislative Committee on Public Works at its December 16th meeting. “I have fond memories of my parents taking me to Syosset’s Lollypop Farm amusement park as a child. Never did I imagine the federal government would want to expend taxpayers’ monies generations later to see if my lost arcade prize from that long-ago closed park would be buried somewhere below nearby Jackson Avenue.”

In spite of the absurdity of the FHWA’s regulations, Herbst asked the county to amend its capital program to permit the restoration of diverted county funds to finance this needed project.

Nassau County had removed Jackson Avenue from its funding plan when federal stimulus funds became available earlier this year for “shovel-ready” projects. The county used the money on other needed job-creating infrastructure projects. After multiple bureaucratic reviews and delays, the county was recently advised that the federal dollars would not be provided for Jackson Avenue. The project’s bid opening was delayed three times by state and federal reviews, and the bid was finally opened on December 17th. Without the federal money or the approval of county funds in its capital program, however, the actual award of the project remains in jeopardy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

For your convenience, please click here for the Christmas and New Year holiday labor agreement wage rate schedules. Please note that all holiday schedules are available on the LICA “members only” page on our website, as well as other important information. You may visit the site at www.licanys.org. If you have any questions or require more information regarding holiday schedules, please contact Josephine Magee at the LICA office, 631-321-LICA or jmagee@licanys.org.
Welcome, New Members

ASSOCIATE
Empire Asphalt LLC
Officers: Andrew Kaufman, Thomas Pratt
56 Comsewogue Road, East Setauket, NY 11733
Email: empireasphalt@optonline.net

Gold Coast Bank
Jacqueline Taylor
Officers: Joseph Perri, CEO & President;
Steve Krolikowski, SVP;  Bill Gray, SVP
2929 Expressway Drive No., Islandia, NY 11749
Email: jtaylor@gcbny.com

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Gramercy Group, Inc.
Vincent Parziale, CEO
123 Frost St., Suite 202, Westbury, NY 11590
PH: (516) 876-0020  FX: 516-876-0021
Email: vparziale@gramercygroupinc.com

SUPPLIER
Long Island Precast, Inc.
Officers: Michael N. Verruto, President
Christopher Verruto, VP
Michael W. Verruto, Secretary/Treasurer
20 Stiriz Road, Brookhaven, NY 11719
Email: mikejr@li-precast.com

LICA IN THE MEDIA:
Thousands of jobs expected from LI road, bridge projects

LICA 2010 DIRECTORY COMING SOON!
CONTACT US TO ADVERTISE!

(Bid Results on next page)
## Bid Results

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<tr>
<th>Bid Date</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
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<td>Primary Electrical Service Replacement @ Plant # 5 Village Of Old Westbury</td>
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