

Press Release

COURT TOSSES MOST CLAIMS AGAINST DEVELOPMENT OF WHOLE FOODS PLAZA

BRIGHTON, NY, September 22, 2022: Supreme Court Justice J. Scott Odorisi has issued a significant ruling granting Summary Judgment in favor of the Town of Brighton against a series of claims made in a continuing series of lawsuits brought by Brighton Grassroots and others to try to stop the Whole Foods Plaza project on Monroe Ave. in Brighton. Yesterday, Judge Odorisi rejected the claims of the opponents that the Town Board approval of the project violated zoning laws, open meetings laws, and environmental review laws, and granted Summary Judgment to the Town of Brighton on those issues. The Court also ruled that the Town Planning Board had acted properly in its review of the project. The Court declined to rule in favor of either party on certain claims made by the opponents that challenged the Auburn Trail, a major active transportation and sustainability project that was developed by the Plaza developers at no cost to taxpayers, as part of the incentive zoning approval of the project.

Brighton Town Supervisor William Moehle said that the Town was pleased that so many of the claims of the opposition group were dismissed. “We have said all along that the Town’s approval process for this project was thorough and complete. The decision by Judge Odorisi confirms that fact.”

Supervisor Moehle continued: “Once again, a multi-billion dollar competitor has tried to block this important project, which will redevelop an important commercial property on the Monroe Ave. corridor of Brighton, generate hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in local tax revenues, and provide good jobs for Rochester area residents. Once again the Court has rejected most of the same claims that this opposition group has been peddling for years. We will continue to fight to ensure that a mammoth commercial competitor cannot dictate the future of our community and block important economic development and infrastructure improvements in Brighton. We are confident that when the Court finally hears all of the facts involved, it will recognize that the Town has acted in complete compliance with the law and determine that the project, with all of its benefits, should proceed.”