

**LI People
ON THE MOVE**



Jesse Giordano of Glen Cove, principal at Opal Wealth Advisors in Melville, has been elected interim chair of the board of trustees of the **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Long Island Chapter** in Melville.

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY



Susan Cushman of Long Beach, an associate professor in the English department at **Nassau Community College** in Garden City, has been promoted to full professor.

SUSAN CUSHMAN



Christina Mathieson of Bethpage has been hired as CEO/team leader at **Keller Williams** of Greater Nassau in Garden City. She was director of community relations at Trinity Solar in Ronkonkoma.

KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY



Charles Vanek of Coram, chief operating officer at **Maryhaven Center of Hope** in Port Jefferson, has been promoted to chief administrative officer.

CATHOLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Send submissions and color headshots to peopleonthemove@newsday.com

IDA DEALS DRAW SCRUTINY FROM LAWMAKERS

BY JAMES T. MADORE
james.madore@newsday.com

A State Senate committee is recommending industrial development agencies give greater scrutiny to applications for tax breaks based on the controversy surrounding incentives awarded to Green Acres Mall by the Hempstead Town IDA.

The Committee on Investigations and Government Operations, in a 137-page report released Monday, said “too often projects fall significantly short of their benefit promises, distressing the economic welfare of local communities as was alleged” in the Green Acres Mall deal.

Green Acres was one of two IDA projects that the committee examined in depth; the other was a warehouse in upstate Orange County.

Green Acres’ owner, Macerich, won tax breaks in 2014-15 for improvements to the shopping mall and construction of the adjacent strip plaza, Green Acres Commons. Homeowners’ property tax bills spiked for one year because one school district miscalculated the impact of the tax breaks. The problem was remedied the following year after loud protests.

The Senate committee endorsed the conclusion of State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli that the Hempstead Town IDA wasn’t to blame for the inflated tax bills. The committee also praised the IDA’s unsuccessful attempt in 2017-18 to revoke the incentives after Macerich didn’t meet its employment commitments for construction jobs and retail jobs.

Still, the committee said



JEFF BACHNER

Protests followed tax break deals granted in 2014-15 to the owner of Green Acres Mall in Valley Stream. State lawmakers are examining the process by which such tax deals are awarded.

the Hempstead Town IDA “neglected to properly investigate the proposed project” and approved the aid before a cost-benefit analysis had been completed.

The committee, which is led by State Sen. James Skoufis (D-Newburgh), said the Green Acres case “demonstrates the need for all IDAs to properly and systematically track verifiable employment data on its own — and not be subject to the whims of an applicant’s, or its vendors’ reporting.”

Public notification of pending IDA projects is necessary because no members of the public attended two public hearings about Green Acres prior to controversy erupting, the committee said.

A Hempstead IDA official said Monday, “We were vindicated by the state comptroller,” which is one of two state regulators of IDAs.

State Sen. Todd Kaminsky (D-Long Beach), the sole Long Islander on the committee, said its nine-month investigation “shines light on the shadowy, backroom nature of some of these deals and sets forth a clear road map to ensure that this unique economic development tool is used to truly uplift our communities.”

Based on the Green Acres case, Kaminsky successfully sponsored legislation with Assemb. Michaelle Solages (D-Elmont), to require IDAs to livestream over the internet their board meetings and public hearings. Gov. Andrew M.

Cuomo signed the bill into law and it goes into effect Jan. 1.

IDA supporters, such as the developers’ group Association for a Better Long Island, said IDA tax incentives make economic development possible.

Kyle Strober, the association’s executive director, said state lawmakers should apply the same rigor to school districts, which have “many more billions of dollars in annual spending compared to IDAs.”

Ryan Silva, executive director of the New York State Economic Development Council, which represents IDAs in Albany, said they’re already “among the most transparent and regulated public authorities” in the state.

Study: Owners of new businesses upbeat on hiring

The Associated Press

Although many small businesses struggle to find staffers to fill their open positions, many entrepreneurs with recently launched companies intend to create jobs within a few years.

That’s one of the findings of a study by researchers at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. The study, based on surveys of about 3,000 people in

the United States during 2018, found 87% of entrepreneurs with young companies expect to employ workers during the next five years, and 38% expect to have six or more workers. Seventeen percent said they expected to have 20 or more workers in five years.

Those expectations reflect the confidence and optimism of owners of businesses that are in the early stages of growth, the study said. “They

trust that they can recruit, hire, and develop employees to help them successfully grow their business,” it said.

Entrepreneurs in the study were upbeat even as small businesses in general were struggling to find staffers. Hiring at small companies tracked by payroll processor ADP was erratic during 2018. Owners have struggled as the unemployment rate fell, a sign of a shrinking labor

pool, and as they reported they couldn’t find workers with the skills they needed. Job creation among small businesses has fallen sharply in 2019, but the Babson survey was completed before the current year began.

The jobs entrepreneurs are contemplating may be most abundant in companies that provide finance, real estate and business services, as well as retail and wholesale businesses.

LI BUSINESS

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