



PRESS RELEASE FROM
JOHN M. KENNEDY, JR.
SUFFOLK COUNTY
COMPTROLLER



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CONTACT: BRENDAN R. SWEENEY
Phone: (631) 853-5045
Email: comptroller@suffolkcountyny.gov

**Comptroller Kennedy Urges LIPA Board of Trustees
To reject the Department of Public Service Recommendations and
Examine their own Authoritative Role**

October 19, 2015 – Suffolk County Comptroller John M. Kennedy, Jr. appeared before the LIPA Board of Trustees meeting today to strongly urge the Board to reject the Department of Public Service recommendations and suspend the review proceedings at this time, to allow for further examination of these impacts to the general public.

In addition to appearing before the Board, Comptroller Kennedy handed the Trustees a letter addressed to Chairman Ralph Suozzi specifically asking what the \$300 million plus increase is with regard to an actual benefit to the general public. Even at the somewhat reduced rates recommended in the DPS report, Suffolk County will still see increases in utility payments in the third year that exceed \$1 million dollars. A real concern is for residents at all levels of income and age that will be the deciding factor on whether or not they can continue to afford to live here on Long Island.

"I was glad to attend the Trustees meeting today and express my concerns for all of the ratepayers of Suffolk County." Comptroller Kennedy stated "The idea of ratepayers paying more and not seeing a direct benefit is ludicrous. Additionally, DPS asked for a 3 percent annum salary increase for PSEG-LI management employees over the duration of the rate plan. "A 9 percent salary increase in a 36 month time period by virtue of an adopted rate increase is excessive and egregious. I ask the Trustees to examine their role and if they do not hold the power to vote yes or now on this rate increase, then they are not fulfilling the job of a true board of a Public Authority."

Attached is Comptroller Kennedy's letter to the LIPA Trustees. For more information please visit <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/comptroller> for the latest news. For any questions call (631) 853-5040 or email comptroller@suffolkcountyny.gov.