

NORTH HEMPSTEAD

# No deals with anti-Israel firms

BY CHRISTINE CHUNG  
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The Town of North Hempstead has decided after a contentious public hearing that it will not conduct business with companies that boycott Israel.

The town board voted 7-0 Tuesday to condemn the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which alleges that Israel applies discriminatory policies to Palestinians.

Town Supervisor Judi Bosworth said the anti-BDS legislation will ensure taxpayer funds do not finance discriminatory actions against the Jewish people or those practicing Judaism. "The BDS movement is dri-

ven by anti-Semitism and is meant to punish Israel in order to cause its economic collapse," Bosworth said.

Dozens of residents voiced their opinions, including several rabbis, who lauded the board for its action against a movement they said is based on decades of hate.

Rabbi Shalom Paltiel of Chabad of Port Washington said the issue affects all Americans, across faiths.

"The laws in this country are made for the people, by the people," Paltiel said. "At a time when we feel it's the climate of the 30s, in our own country . . . it's an American issue."

Others criticized the town for overstepping its bounds as a

municipality and for drafting a law that they said violates the First Amendment.

Susan Gottehrer, chapter director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said the town's legislation "imposes a penalty on protected free speech."

Town resident Cassandra Lems said the law is an attempt to "silence our right to speak out" and warned of a slippery slope.

"I don't understand why you think the state of Israel is more important than supporting the rights of U.S. citizens to protest however they see fit," Lems said to the board. "My local government has no business enacting laws in matters of international policy."



Rabbi Shalom Paltiel addresses the board during the hearing Tuesday.

North Hempstead Town follows the steps of the Town of Hempstead and the Nassau County Legislature, which both passed similar laws last

year. Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo signed an executive order last summer denouncing the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

NORTH HEMPSTEAD

## ATV law delayed to add teeth

BY KHRISTOPHER J. BROOKS  
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North Hempstead town council members have delayed their vote on banning all-terrain vehicles to add an extra punishment to the proposed law.

Town officials drafted a law that bans ATVs on town property, imposes fines and in some cases includes jail time. However, during Tuesday night's meeting, Supervisor Judi Bosworth said council members want to also give police authority to impound an ATV. The council probably will vote on the proposal April 25.

Council members didn't vote on it Tuesday, Bosworth said, because there were too many unanswered details about impoundment.

"How do we arrange them to be towed or moved to storage?" Bosworth asked Tuesday. "Where could we store them safely so they can be retrieved? What conditions could be put on retrieval? If no one retrieves the ATV, what do we do with them? We need to get the answers."

Port Washington Police



An ATV near North Hempstead Beach Park's Aerodrome last week.

Chief James Salerno answered some of Bosworth's questions at the meeting.

After a resident calls Port Washington police, officers would locate the person riding on town property. The vehicle would be towed by Chester's Highway Garage of Port Washington, where it would sit in their impound yard until the offender pays a fine, Salerno said. If someone abandons the ATV, Chester's would put a lien on it and the vehicle would become the garage's property, he said.

"I believe that if we impound one ATV, we could almost curtail the problem," Salerno said.

Residents across North Hempstead have told Bosworth and council members that ATV riders are ruining the natural habitat at North Hempstead Beach Park's Aerodrome area and the Hempstead Harbor Nature Sanctuary.

Bosworth said it's time to pass the ban because some ATV riders have ignored the town's pleas to avoid hilly and grassland areas.

EAST HAMPTON

## Housing Authority to clean up books

BY RACHELLE BLIDNER  
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The East Hampton Housing Authority said it will clean up its books after the Office of the New York State Comptroller called in an audit report on officials to tighten financial controls.

In a corrective action plan issued this week, the authority's board of commissioners and executive director said more officials will review bank records monthly and check records weekly. They have also voided all signed blank checks kept on file in case of emergency and created a separate spreadsheet to keep track of voided checks.

"If there are areas where we can improve, if there are mistakes that are being made that could be avoided, we are more than happy to take any recommended action to see it doesn't happen in the future," executive director Catherine M. Casey said yesterday.

Thomas P. DiNapoli said in a recently released audit report that between Jan. 1, 2015, and Sept. 30, 2016, the

board of commissioners did not make sure the agency's books matched monthly bank statements.

The board said it has "always reviewed monthly cash reports but did not check detail." Casey said she reviewed monthly statements for irregularities and disputed DiNapoli's finding the authority did not record all financial transactions. She said all transactions were recorded in QuickBooks and all signed blank checks that were used were recorded in a separate ledger.

DiNapoli and Casey both said the more than \$6.324 million issued in nonpayroll checks were for "appropriate authority purposes."

The housing authority manages three properties with a total of 93 housing units and is developing a fourth with 40 housing units in Amagansett. Its financial records are submitted every year to the East Hampton Town government and the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal and are audited annually by an independent firm, the board said.

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