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LIRRCC Officially Opens Long Island Office

The Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council (LIRRCC) today officially opened its first office on Long Island in Mineola. The office is located in Nassau County's Ralph G. Caso Executive and Legislative Building at 1 West Street. The opening was commemorated with a ceremony at the building this morning, which looked to the future while celebrating the LIRR's past with a display of memorabilia from Steven Quigley of the National Railway Historical Society Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter.

The new office allows the LIRRCC to maintain a stable physical presence on Long Island and will provide capacity to accommodate LIRRCC members and staff when they are active on Long Island, as well as functioning as a location for interactions between the Council and LIRR system stakeholders.

The need for a physical presence on Long Island has increases as ridership patterns on the LIRR evolve. The LIRRCC was established in 1981 when the traditional commuting patterns of riders traveling west in the morning into New York City and east in the evening to their home stations were predominant. This pattern has been changing, and over the past thirty years non-commutation ridership has increased by 66 percent, while commutation ridership has declined by 7 percent.

The mission of the LIRRCC remains as it was in 1981: to be the voice of LIRR riders in their quest for better service, but this new space allows the Council to better address evolving travel patterns, which are expected to change dramatically with the opening of East Side Access within the next decade. The Council is composed of Long Island Rail Road riders who serve as volunteers without compensation. Members and staff monitor and investigate the operations of the Rail Road and make recommendations to improve its performance.

LIRRCC Chair Mark Epstein noted "the time is right for our Council to establish a physical presence on Long Island, as our new office will help us to reach out to important stakeholders in our community and to provide a point of access to the LIRRCC for riders and others in the community. This will help us do a better job in our work to improve conditions for the riders."

“The Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council’s new office will provide a great resource for commuters,” said Nassau County Executive Mangano. “My administration looks forward to working with the Commuter Council to help enhance the rider experience for residents utilizing the Long Island Rail Road.”

“Members of the LIRR Commuter Council help improve the lives of all those who use the railroad to move around and across Long Island,” Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said. “Thanks to these volunteers, commuters are able to let the railroad know about important issues and have an organization that continues to promote sensible policies that improve the state of public transportation, both now and in the future.”

“The Long Island Railroad Commuter Council has been an effective voice and a tremendous partner to me in advocating for commuters on Long Island,” said Representative Steve Israel. “The opening of their Mineola office reaffirms their long-standing dedication to Long Island riders and their commitment to working with local officials to improve service for all Long Islanders.”

“The LIRRCC’s new office in Mineola is not just a great venue but a fantastic resource for Long Islanders to voice their recommendations, concerns and suggestions. It will provide another means to further the LIRRCC’s mission and ensure better performance from the Long Island Rail Road” said Representative Peter King.

"The opening of LIRRCC’s first Long Island office will help facilitate improved communication between Council members and the riding public, allowing the commuters’ concerns to be easily heard. This will help increase their efforts in fostering a stronger and more responsive transportation system. The LIRRCC should be commended for working to improve the quality of the service on the Long Island Railroad," said New York State Senator Carl L. Marcellino