



LONG ISLAND  
BUILDERS INSTITUTE

Advocating Responsible Building & Remodeling

September 12, 2018

Honorable Steve Bellone  
Suffolk County Executive  
H. Lee Dennison Building  
100 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

RE: County Health Department and Building Permits

Dear County Executive Bellone:

The Long Island Builders Institute wishes to respectfully request that Suffolk County change its current procedure and allow for our towns and villages to approve demolition and building permits for any new development or any development which would result in an increase in the square footage of a building or a change of use which would result in an increase in sanitary density prior to formal approval by the county health department.

The current policy which instructs the towns and villages not to issue demolition or building permits for residential or commercial development to the extent that any increase in square footage or sanitary density occurs is a significant impediment to efficient construction of viable projects within the county and should be revised. Currently, the policy strictly prohibits the issuance of demolition or building permits for new development on residential or commercial properties or additions to such sites even where the site clearly has adequate on-site sanitary flow to support the proposed construction. The current policy results in significant delays in construction projects that are otherwise in compliance with Article 6. These changes can range from a minor increase in square footage on a commercial site to a full single family home on a single and separate lot which would meet Article Six sanitary flow requirements. Where the applicant demonstrates compliance with Article Six sanitary density requirements and any construction would not increase flow above Article Six, there is no reason why a demolition or building permit should not be allowed to be issued by the respective town or village. The County Health Department will still have final authority to not allow a Certificate of Occupancy for the project to prohibit the occupancy within the project until such time as a formal permit has been approved. Thus, a relaxation of the current prohibition policy should be approved as no occupancy can still occur until a formal permit is issued.

We respectfully request that Article Six be amended to include the following language:

-Where an applicant has made an application to the Department which demonstrates compliance with Article Six-Sanitary Flow Requirements, the town or village in which the project is located shall provide a demolition and/or building permit to the applicant, provided that such permit shall include a statement to the effect that no Certificate of Occupancy may be issued until authorized by the Department.

The Long Island Builders Institute strongly believes that a modification of the current prohibition policy will provide for more efficient construction, provide benefits to many small businesses and single family homeowners and still provide for specific health department approval is received before any occupancy of the new facility can take place. We urge the county's adoption of our request.

Very truly yours



Mitchell H. Pally

Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Commissioner James Tomarken

Deputy County Executive Peter Scully