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## **From the Desk of Town Supervisor Ciaran Hanna: An Update on the Working Plan for a new Host Community Agreement between Waste Management and the Town of Perinton**

The Town is currently developing and will soon start negotiating a new Host Community Agreement (HCA) with Waste Management. This important document outlines the protections and benefits provided to our residents for hosting a portion of the High Acres Landfill within the Town of Perinton. It is important to note that this agreement only speaks to the benefits provided to our community; it does not permit the operation of the landfill. The operational control and regulatory oversight of the High Acres Landfill is managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

While the NYSDEC is the regulatory agency with primary permitting authority over the landfill, the Town will take this opportunity to add new protections and heightened accountability that will benefit our residents locally for years to come. We have been working for some time now on a brand new and revamped Host Community Agreement that will include enhanced accountability, added protections, increased community value, and a renewed focus on environmental sustainability.

The landfill has been in Perinton for 50 years, and since becoming Town Supervisor in 2018, I've looked at every aspect of the current landfill agreement with a fresh take. While we cannot alter decisions of the past, we can ensure more accountability and protections for our residents moving forward. I've spoken with a number of residents about the past issues and future of the landfill, and many of the concepts we are looking to include in this new agreement are based on that input and feedback.

A preliminary draft of the Host Community Agreement is not yet complete, but it will be ready very soon, and we look forward to rolling it out and seeking your input. In the meantime, I would like to let residents know where we are in the process. Below is our working checklist outlining all of the added protections and benefits we are looking to include in a new Host Community Agreement. Some of these items are brand new, and others are being carried over from the existing HCA. Many of the new items continue to be crafted, while some have already been implemented by the Town over the past couple of years. The new HCA will be able to codify all of these concepts into a formalized agreement. Again, because this is a negotiated agreement, we will share as much as we possibly can now and throughout the negotiation process.

### **Concepts of the new Host Community Agreement:**

#### **✓ Added Protections:**

- New restrictions on rail operations.
- Improvements to the general operation & maintenance of the landfill.
- Creation of an Odor Verification Program utilizing ASTM Standards.
- Additional restrictions on waste in accordance with the Waste Characterization Study.

#### **✓ Enhanced Accountability:**

- Enhanced Monitoring and Reporting.
- Continued and improved information sharing.
- Upgraded Odor Notification Program.
- Odor Event Accountability.

✓ **Increased Community Value:**

- Creation of a Citizens Advisory Group.
- Property Protection Value Program.
- Increased Royalties to benefit taxpayers.

✓ **Environmental Sustainability:**

- Residential Organics Composting Pilot Program.
- Compost and Wood Chip Give-Back Program: source material is yard debris, leaf/tree debris collected weekly by the Town.
- Town-wide Curbside Recycling Program.
- Residential Drop-off Program.
- Waste to Energy Program.

The new HCA will afford the Town a great opportunity to serve our community better and implement future safeguards. I believe we can always do better, and we will continue to advocate for the needs and protections our residents deserve. I am committed to including our residents in the process from start to finish as we begin to negotiate this new HCA. Please stay tuned to our website, [www.perinton.org](http://www.perinton.org), for the release of the draft Host Community Agreement and public comment process.

For more information on the Host Community Agreement, I invite you to attend our virtual public information meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 7, at 7:00 pm via Starleaf. Visit [StarLeaf.com](http://StarLeaf.com), click 'Join Meeting' and input Meeting ID# 490 245 2309, or listen in by dialing +1 669-272-2894 or +1 669-800-5335.