



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

December 23, 2016

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As you are aware, on Friday, December 16, 2016, a terrible 12-alarm fire swept through the historic Village of Sag Harbor. Thanks to the excellent work of our brave police officers and firefighters, everyone was safely evacuated from the buildings and there were no physical injuries reported. However, a significant number of Sag Harbor's homes, businesses, and cultural institutions were damaged or destroyed by the fire. We are writing today to respectfully ask that you formally request an SBA agency-level special disaster declaration.

In total, five buildings, home to seven businesses and four apartments suffered significant fire, smoke, and water damage. Two of those building have already been demolished due to extensive structural damage. One of those demolished buildings was the beloved and iconic Sag Harbor Cinema, which has been a venue for shows and movies for more than a century. The cinema's large screen and eclectic slate of films from all over the world brought joy and culture to the Sag Harbor community and those who visited the region. It was a unique, historic, and irreplaceable institution, and its loss in the fire has greatly saddened our entire community.

At least 50 businesses on Main Street and Washington Street have suffered a direct financial loss due to the closure of streets, eliminated parking spaces, and blocked access during one of busiest times of the year. Parking still remains limited, even one week after the incident, due to ongoing demolition activities. The owners of these small main street businesses are now facing the loss of their livelihoods for an indeterminate amount of time and an arduous recovery and rebuilding process that will affect the entire village.

Sag Harbor only claims approximately 2,200 residents, so the economic disruption caused by the fire has a much broader and more crippling impact than the direct damage from the fire. The damage to the Sag Harbor Village District, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and contains most of the retail establishments in the village, will negatively impact tourism during the summer and cause further economic harm to the village.

Given the limited resources for economic recovery and the fire's economic impact on a small, yet vibrant and historic community, we should do everything in our power to help these small business owners recover from their tragic loss. Therefore, we would like to ask that you formally request the U.S. Small Business Administration to grant the Village of Sag Harbor a special disaster declaration to allow residents to be eligible for the SBA Disaster Recovery program, which will give them access to low-interest loans to help them get back on their feet.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to working with your office in the future to help this community recover and ask that you consider the impact of this fire in determining the allocation of future economic development projects and resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Thiele, Jr.".

Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
State Assemblyman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth P. LaValle".

Kenneth P. LaValle
State Senator

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cc: Sandra Schroeder, Sag Harbor Village Mayor
Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Executive
Bridget Fleming, Suffolk County Legislator
James King, Small Business Development Center
Bernie Ryba, Small Business Development Center
Theresa Ward, Commissioner Suffolk County Dept. of Economic Dev. and Planning
Vanessa Lockel, Governor's Office

enclosure

Businesses Affected within the Village of Sag Harbor

1. Theodore Seiter Jr.	20 Main Street
2. Jill Scheerer	26 Main Street
3. Harbor Enterprises	32 Main Street
4. Shari A. Hymes	36 Main Street
5. Wilton Virgo	42 Main Street
6. Schiavoni Family	48 Main Street
7. Robert Schmitz	52 Main Street
8. Denise O'Malley	56 Main Street
9. Edward Burke	62 Main Street
10. Marty's Family	66 Main Street
11. D&F Sag Harbor Properties	72 Main Street
12. Sag Harbor Ventures	78 Main Street
13. Germal Group Inc.	90 Main Street
14. James McGuiness	84 Main Street
15. East End Land Corporation	96 Main Street
16. Gary Sanders	102 Main Street
17. Donald Katz	108 Main Street
18. 5&10, LLC	114 Main Street
19. EML Holding / Sag Harbor Drugs	120 Main Street
20. 126 Main Street Associates	126 Main Street
21. Brosco LLC	132 Main Street
22. Apple Bank For Savings	138 Main Street
23. Double Jay Realty Company LLC	83 Main Street
24. Laura Grenning	17 Washington
25. A&D Building Inc	75 Main Street
26. 63 Main LLC	63 Main Street
27. Division Street Hotel Corp	49 Main Street
28. Romany Kramoris	41 Main Street
29. Beaner II LLC	35 Main Street
30. Cardile and Caniglia LLC	29 Main Street
31. Big Fish Holding	23 Main Street
32. The Suffolk County National Bank	17 Main Street
33. Sag Harbor Pooh LLC	7 Main Street
34. Smylos Inn LTD	1 Main Street
35. Tenco Holdings LTD	45 Main Street
36. Nada Barry	69 Main Street
37. Geraldine Campsey	69 Main Street
38. Rocco Liccardi	150 Main Street
39. Past Tense Ltd	144 Main Street
40. Bank North	89 Main Street
41. Sag Harbor Main Street Realty	103 Main Street / Conca & Sylvester
42. John Louise	117 Main Street
43. Sag Harbor Holdings LLC	125 Main Street
44. Main Street Sag Harbor Holdings	127 Main Street
45. LBB Holding Co Inc.	95 Main Street
46. Double Star Inc.	2 Main Street