

Braiden McElhaney Calls for Smarter, Safer Development Near Stadium

“Planning isn’t just about permits—it’s about protecting people and investments.”

Orchard Park, NY — Braiden McElhaney, local realtor and candidate for Orchard Park Town Council, issued a statement today in response to the ongoing legal dispute between residents and the Town over the recently approved Crosby’s gas station on Abbott Road near the new Bills stadium.



“As someone who works in real estate every day, I see how development choices shape neighborhoods for decades,” McElhaney said. “What’s happening on Abbott Road is a wake-up call. We need to start treating land use like the long-term investment it is, not a quick transaction.”

The lawsuit, filed by a resident and currently facing an August 19 court date, centers on public frustration with how variances and special-use permits were granted, despite concerns about traffic, safety, and quality of life.

While McElhaney declined to comment on pending litigation, he emphasized that the process failures and lack of clear planning standards around the stadium corridor are cause for concern.

“It’s not just about whether a gas station should be built; it’s about whether we’ve done the homework as a town. Do we have traffic impact studies? Do we have coordinated standards with Hamburg? Do we have the infrastructure in place to handle growth? Right now, the answer looks like ‘no,’” McElhaney said.

McElhaney also pointed to the financial implications of rushed approvals and lawsuits, warning that every legal dispute tied to poor planning puts taxpayer dollars at risk.

“When decisions aren’t made on solid ground, we end up paying for it, sometimes in court, sometimes in infrastructure fixes, sometimes in lost confidence.”

As part of his campaign, McElhaney is proposing the creation of a Townwide Development Accountability Framework that would:

Require full infrastructure readiness reviews for major projects; Establish pre-approval neighborhood impact assessments; and Align Orchard Park’s zoning and development plans with regional growth strategies and traffic design.

It would also provide public-facing scorecards for large proposals showing how they meet planning, safety, and fiscal benchmarks.

“I’m not against growth—I’m for growth that works. Let’s plan smarter, communicate better, and protect what makes Orchard Park a great place to live.”

To learn more about Braiden McElhaney’s campaign or share your ideas, visit www.braiden4op.com

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