

# Village weighs prohibition against glass containers

By NADYA NATALY  
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The Village of Freeport Board of Trustees is considering changing village code to prohibit the use of glass containers outdoors.

The changes pertain to Chapter 155 of the village code, peace and good order, which would add Section 112, titled "glass containers." The potential addition would prohibit the use of glass containers served

outdoors by restaurants or commercial businesses. The intent behind the proposed ordinance is to reduce littering, village officials aid.

The board is set to hold a public hearing to discuss specifics of the plan on Wednesday, May 10, at 7 p.m. According to the board, businesses would be required to serve alcoholic beverages in plastic cups and containers bearing the names of the establishments. Exact details of the new

code are still up in the air, including whether non-alcoholic beverages could be served in glass containers.

"If a person buys ... a Snapple, which usually comes in a glass, is that going to be treated differently? I mean it's a nonalcoholic drink," asked Trustee Carmen Pinyro during a recent meeting.

Village attorney Howard Colton responded that it would be unlawful for a person to carry any drink in a glass container.

"So, if I go to 7-Eleven and buy a glass Snapple, I have to pour it in a plastic container before I walk out?" questioned Pinyro.

"That is correct," Colton said.

"The main intent is to prohibit the use of glass utensils or bottles being served in an outside establishment. Each container has to be labeled so that it is easy to locate where the littering is being generated from," Mayor Robert Kennedy said.

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# Bracco's sues state after liquor-license suspension

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Freeport brothers Jon, Michael and Robert Bracco, owners of Bracco's Clam and Oyster Bar on the Nautical Mile, are suing the State Liquor Authority, asking for all administrative charges against Bracco's to be dismissed and for \$20,000 in fines levied against the restaurant to be returned, court documents show.

The lawsuit, filed in State Supreme Court, comes after the state revoked Bracco's liquor license last August because rapper 50 Cent appeared there to promote and sign bottles of his Effen Vodka. After his appearance, the rapper performed an impromptu karaoke concert, during which police say fights broke out and bottles were hurled at village police when they tried to break them up. 50 Cent was at the bar about 45 minutes, documents state.

The Bracco brothers dispute police charges, saying that there was no concert that night, and that the crowd was peaceful during 50 Cent's appearance.

Bracco's license was reinstated in December, but the suspension cost the

brothers more than \$2 million in revenue in the second half of last year, court documents state.

The liquor authority also barred Bracco's from having live concerts, DJ music or any promotions, and the bar was required to close at midnight — restrictions that were lifted April 12.

The Bracco brothers' attorney, Ron Rosenberg, filed suit on April 24, saying there were three incidents on the night in question:

- • A disorderly person was removed from Bracco's at 12:55 a.m.
- • There was an open container violation at 1:22 a.m.
- • And a drunken driver was arrested at 1:38 a.m.
- According to Rosenberg, all three incidents occurred about three hours after 50 Cent left the venue and were unrelated to his appearance.

The Bracco brothers were not available for comment. It was unclear whether they might sue the Village of Freeport or village police.



Christina Daly/Herald

**THE FREEPORT BROTHERS** who own Bracco's on the Nautical Mile are suing the State Liquor Authority.

# Nassau County to go after opioid manufacturers

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campaign" to convince doctors and patients that the reward of using opioids outweighed the addictive medications' risks.

Nassau's suit will likely involve similar charges, according to Badala.

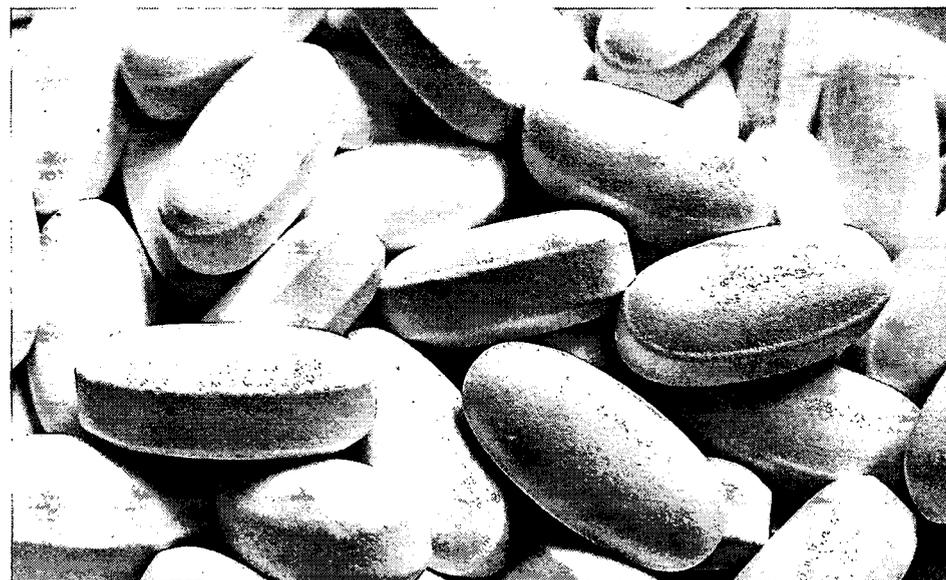
"Once the complaint is filed, you'll see multiple examples of the deceptive and unfair marketing campaign by the defendant, from the 1990s continuing to today," he added.

According to Badala, his firm has had a number of successes in cases against drug companies, including one against a diet pill manufacturer. The firm also negotiated a multi-million dollar settlement for thousands who claimed to be injured by a blood clot medication.

"Our firm has had a lot of success against pharmaceutical companies," he said. "We've been doing this a long time."

County Executive Ed Mangano confirmed Tuesday that the contract was signed and he intended to move forward with the suit.

"Nassau County is seeking damages



**NASSAU COUNTY** has hired an outside law firm to help them take on the manufacturers of opioid pain medications in court to recoup costs of the drug epidemic.

from drug manufacturers and doctors involved in the marketing and promotion of opioids," he said. "Local governments

such as the County of Nassau have spent millions of dollars in costs related to opioid addiction and abuse including health

care costs, criminal justice and victimization and lost productivity."

Michael Belfiore, a doctor from Merrick who is currently facing federal charges of improperly prescribing and over-prescribing opioids, has filed a motion to intervene in the Suffolk case, according to his attorney in hopes of a favorable settlement there providing a partial criminal defense for him.

In court papers, Belfiore claims that he was taken in by years of deceptive marketing by opioid manufacturers and lax government regulation, and should not be held responsible.

Attorneys for Suffolk County and Purdue Pharma have filed papers opposing Belfiore's motion, stating that he has no material claim in the action, and that his involvement would further complicate the matter.

Belfiore's attorney, Tom Liotti, was unavailable to comment on whether Belfiore would be seeking to intervene in the Nassau County case as well, once it is filed.