

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN

Milstein is a good choice to lead Thruway Authority

I feel compelled to comment on Gov. Andrew Cuomo's nomination of Howard Milstein as chairman of the New York State Thruway Authority. In the interest of full disclosure, I have brokered many properties to Milstein's company, NFR, but we have never met.

As the owner of one of the largest real estate firms in Niagara Falls with knowledge of the marketplace, let me assure you, Milstein has taken on a monumental task. The reality is, before NFR no one was buying any of the properties Milstein has acquired. I gladly sold my own portfolio in the designated area.

The assemblage makes Milstein one of the largest taxpayers in the Falls. In just a few short years, he has cleaned up and now maintains close to 100 acres.

Where others like the Ghermezian brothers, Benderson and now Cordish have left the market, Milstein's group perseveres in an environment in which it is tough to do business. It is interesting to note that these developers, including Milstein, have been successful elsewhere.

Milstein has given generously to many community events and charitable organizations and it's my belief that Western New York should embrace him. He is a successful businessman who pays his taxes. New York State is fortunate that Milstein has been tapped by Cuomo to head up the Thruway Authority.

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