

## EDITORIALS

# Misconduct bill should be redone

Sometimes very necessary reforms are wrapped in lousy legislation like the prosecutorial misconduct bill on Gov. Andrew Cuomo's desk.

If he can't broker an agreement to fix its considerable flaws, Cuomo must veto the bill and try to enact better laws to fix unfairness in the criminal justice system and to hold prosecutors accountable for misdeeds.

The first issue is that this bill probably would not survive a legal challenge. It would create an 11-member commission with subpoena power to investigate charges of misconduct by district attorneys, but six of the members would be selected by the State Legislature — a likely violation of the separation of powers in the state constitution. In the real world, that would give politicians power to remove an elected district attorney if they disapproved of a case the prosecutor filed, like an official corruption case.

The bill is also too sweeping and contains no guidelines on which complaints would be considered against prosecutors and how investigations would proceed. Even worse, it would allow complaints to be filed in pending cases. That could result in unending groundless filings that would stall most criminal matters and run up bills for taxpayers.

There are better remedies to make sure defendants in the criminal justice system are treated properly and fairly. In November, Janet DiFiore, the state's chief judge, established a rule that allowed judges to hold prosecutors in contempt for failing or delaying to turn over exculpatory evidence, one of the main factors in wrongful conviction cases. New York also needs laws that would give prosecutors specific timetables for turning over evidence to defense lawyers; this is one of the few states that doesn't have such protocols. District attorneys have to stop blocking this reform.

And there have to be real consequences to deter bad or inept prosecutors. Too often, we see defendants exonerated because prosecutors violated the rules, but never do we see consequences for the rule breakers. Fix the grievance process so bad lawyers can be disbarred quickly, and drop the shroud of secrecy around the process.

The system surely needs to be changed, but this pending bill would make it worse.

— *The editorial board*

## \$10M state grant gives Central Islip a new chance

Central Islip is, in some ways, two stories along a single street. There's the southern end of Carleton Avenue, the site of the Long Island Ducks' ballpark, federal and state courthouses, two hotels, some retail stores and a senior housing complex. And then there's the stretch just south of the train station. It's less than a mile long, but its blight, vacancies and dilapidated properties tell a very different tale.

Central Islip now is poised to change its story by redeveloping its downtown just south of Suffolk Avenue. The Town of Islip won the state's downtown revitalization initiative competition and its \$10 million prize for planning and paying for the area's needed transformation. The win comes on top of Central Islip's designation in June as a federal Opportunity Zone, which offers tax incentives for private investment in the area.

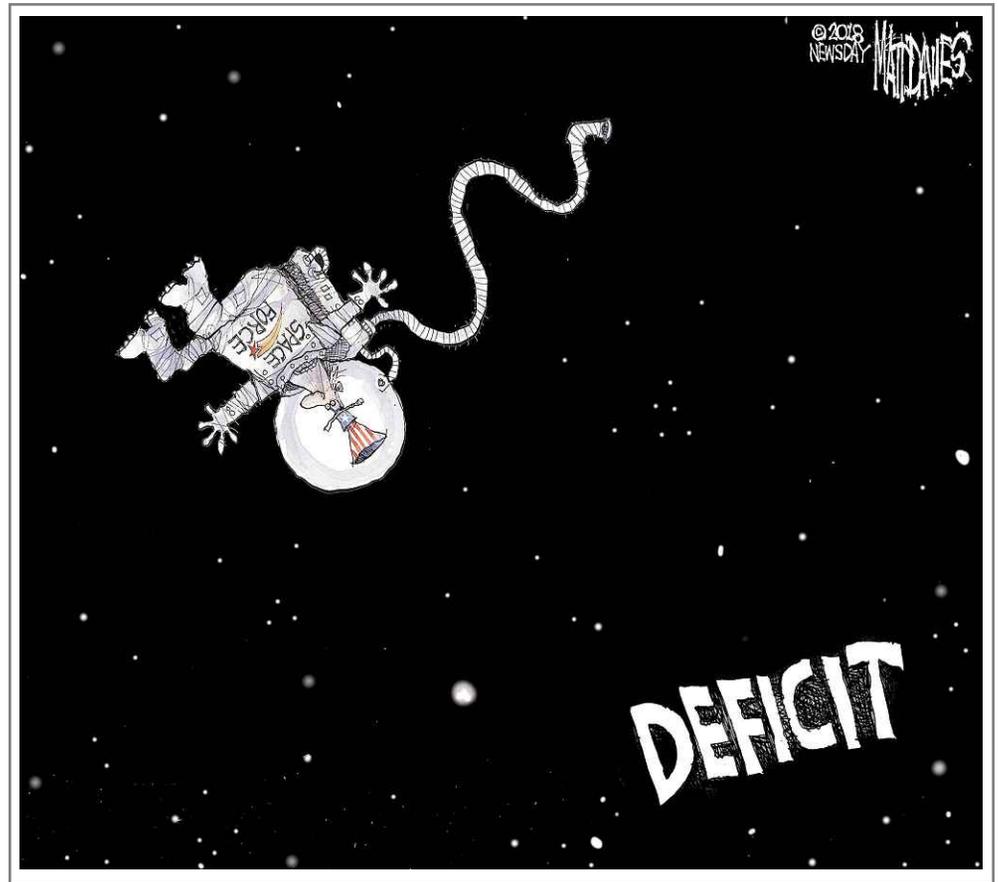
A remade downtown Central Islip could include new housing, restaurants and retail space. Add in improved, more walkable streetscapes and sidewalks, and new uses for the old firehouse and surplus New York Institute of Technology land that's vacant and available for development.

Town Supervisor Angie Carpenter will lead the effort to revitalize Central Islip and find the best mix of projects while ensuring improvements to sewer connections and other infrastructure. Residents and civic associations seem supportive; area business leaders should step up, too.

With everyone on board, Central Islip's new story can begin.

— *The editorial board*

## MATT DAVIES



■ See more Matt Davies cartoons: [newsday.com/matt](http://newsday.com/matt)

## LETTERS

### Taking aim on guns from 3D printers

Your Aug. 2 news story "Debate over 3D guns" said, "They're easy to make — at home, perhaps even the office. They're cheap, comparatively speaking." This line is misleading. Other media have reported that printers to make a 3D gun are very expensive:

CNN: "The higher-end 3D printers needed to make such weapons cost thousands of dollars and may be too expensive for most people."

The Hill: "... the high-end printers needed to produce weapons go for hundreds of thousands, or even millions [of dollars]."

It is illogical for criminals to spend thousands of dollars to create a flimsy plastic gun that's more likely to explode in their hands than actually fire a round. It's easier to purchase a far cheaper one on the black market.

It is within a company's First Amendment rights to post the designs online. If you don't believe me, you can Google how to build a gun right now, as you have been able to do for years.

*Matthew Pinna,  
Farmingdale*

I agree with Newsday's Aug. 1 editorial, "'Ghost guns' a major danger," that President Donald Trump's administration should tighten federal laws and rescind its recent settlement that allowed a Texas outfit called Defense Distributed to post instructions for 3D guns online. Congressional leaders are pursuing legislation against the threat. Sensible and necessary!

I hope sanity wins. I am a grandfather of nine and was a teacher for 33 years. Our president has a dismal record on rational gun control. At various times, he has indicated support for univer-

sal background checks, raising the legal age to buy guns to 21, restricting semi-automatic rifles and banning bump stocks, but not one has been done. I haven't forgotten. 3D guns are an issue of national security.

*Hank Cierski,  
Port Jefferson Station*

Hey, kids, now you can take your Second Amendment rights and stash them in your high school locker with your history book. 3D printers let you make illegal, unregistered plastic guns. They'll be undetectable at airports and slip through security. Check your local internet for details.

Simply allowing this to happen in the grief-stricken hallways of our schools would be madness. How would it make our kids safer, make us better?

*Debra North,  
East Meadow*