

Long Island Business NEWS

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Nassau Candy lands IDA deal for \$4.3M expansion

By: Joseph Kellard November 10, 2015 Comments Off

[Nassau Candy Distributors](#), a Long Island-based candy manufacturer and distributor, received tax breaks to expand its headquarters, the second round of such relief the company has received in two years.

Nassau County Industrial Development Agency on Monday approved an application by the Hicksville-based company to add a 26,000-square-foot extension to its existing 127,000-square-foot building at 300 Duffy Avenue, which also serves as a warehouse distribution center. The cost of the project is \$4.3 million.

Nassau IDA granted a sales-tax exemption of \$306,187 for the purchase of machinery and construction materials, and a mortgage recording tax exemption of \$360,750. The agency also integrated the extension into a 20-year property-tax break, known as a payment in lieu of taxes program, or PILOT, that Nassau Candy Distributors received to [purchase and renovate](#) the building in 2014.

“We are simply adding the 26,000-square-foot expansion into that PILOT,” Nassau IDA Executive Director Joseph Kearney told LIBN. “So, there’s no extension of the pilot.”

Nassau Candy currently employs 328 people at the distribution building, one of five properties it owns on Long

Island. With the PILOT program, the company plans to add 20 permanent jobs to the Hicksville headquarters by 2019.

Established in Hempstead in 1906, [Nassau Candy](#) is the largest specialty confectionery, gourmet food and natural food manufacturer, importer and distributor in North America, supplying more than 10,000 items — including chocolate-covered raisins and pretzels, fruit slices and hand-dipped chocolate cherries — to thousands of independent retailers. The company also makes private-label products for major grocery, big box and drugstore chains and the travel and leisure industry. In addition to Long Island, the company has distribution and manufacturing centers in Florida, Michigan, Texas and California. Owners Barry Rosenbaum and Lance Stier purchased the business in 1984.

As LIBN previously [reported](#), Nassau Candy Distributors, which also has locations in Los Angeles and San Francisco, merged its west coast operations, Nassau Candy West, with [Sosnick](#) of South San Francisco, forming a new candy supplier named Nassau-Sosnick Distribution Company, in October 2015.

Nassau County said the expansion project will generate more than \$21 million in economic benefits for the county as well as nearly \$1.8 million in new taxes for the jurisdiction.

“We’re happy to be able to help this company that has deep roots in the county,” Kearney said. “It was, at one point, prior to the original relief that we gave them in 2014, a flight risk, heading across the Hudson River to the Midwest.”