

Nassau Candy receives tax breaks for new warehouse in Hicksville, pledge to maintain 310 jobs

Friday December 6, 2013 3:01 PM By [James Madore](#)



Photo credit: iStock | Hicksville-based Nassau Candy Distributors Inc. makes chocolate-covered raisins and pretzels, fudge, fruit slices, roasted nuts and hand-dipped chocolate cherries, among others.

A Hicksville-based seller of chocolates and gourmet foods will receive tax breaks over 20 years in return for staying in Nassau County rather than moving out of state, officials said Friday.

The county's industrial development agency gave the incentives in support of a \$14.7-million plan by Nassau Candy Distributors Inc. for a regional warehouse at 300 Duffy Ave. in Hicksville.

The new 127,000-square-foot facility will free up space for more manufacturing at the company's other sites in Hicksville and Freeport, said IDA executive director Joseph J. Kearney.

Nassau Candy also has operations in California, Michigan and Florida.

Kearney said, "They seriously considered leaving, and I'm very happy to say we were able to retain this iconic company."

He also said Nassau Candy has agreed to maintain its local payroll of 310 workers. Records show they earn, on average, \$17.50 per hour, excluding benefits.

Nassau Candy will save \$124,740 on the mortgage recording tax for 300 Duffy Ave. and up to \$100,000 in sales tax on equipment and other purchases under a deal approved Thursday night.

The company's property taxes will be frozen for 15 years and then increase by 1.66 percent in each of the next five years.

Earlier, the IDA provided a sales-tax exemption for construction materials and equipment needed to reopen the Freeport factory after damage caused by superstorm Sandy on Oct. 29, 2012.

Officials said Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano was involved in keeping Nassau Candy on Long Island, including meeting with company executives.

Nassau Candy, based on West John Street in Hicksville, sells more than 10,000 items. It makes chocolate-covered raisins and pretzels, fudge, fruit slices, roasted nuts and hand-dipped chocolate cherries, among others.

The business supplies Wal-Mart and other national retailers.

Nassau Candy opened more than 80 years ago, in the 1920s, on Front Street in Hempstead Village. In 1984, the candy and tobacco distributor was purchased by Barry Rosenbaum and his brother-in-law Lesley H. Stier.

The pair expanded manufacturing operations and stopped selling tobacco.