

Mayor Marc Samwick

Village of Scarsdale NY

CC: Village Clerk and Board of Trustees

Dear Mr Mayor:

As a longtime resident of Scarsdale, I wanted to express my concerns on the proposed Freightway development project.

Most residents agree that the garage is an eyesore and should be renovated and improved. However, it is difficult to find Scarsdale residents who believe in any of the proposals submitted by the developers. Some of the proposals include 100-200 new residential units and one of the proposals has an 8- story building. Why increase the traffic, the noise and congestion in Scarsdale? We have the 2nd busiest train station in Westchester where commuters huddle in rows at the door- stops. More residents, more commuters and more congestion are not what residents want.

More coop, condo or apartment units means many more children in the schools. Under the NY homestead exemption such residents will pay a fraction of what homeowners pay in real estate taxes. Our real estate taxes are among the highest in the country and now the SALT deduction is limited to \$10,000. Homeowners are not happy with this situation and will be unhappier when this proposal creates higher taxes.

The Village does greatly need improvement. We have many empty storefronts. It would be better to have a task force investigate why small businesses are leaving the Village. Yes, parking could be better but there are other problems such as commercial rents that are too high.

Mr Mayor I strongly urge you and the Board to reevaluate the Freightway development plans; to reduce the scope of the project by eliminating the residential units in favor of modest commercial and parking development. Look to Bronxville or Rye which have vibrant Village Centers without major new residential building. Let's keep our schools at the present size and let's not increase the homestead exemptions at a time when homeowners are already paying more than their fair share of nondeductible taxes.

Finally, I believe that Scarsdale residents should be allowed to vote on a major change to the Village. We need an open forum for discussion and residents should have the right to vote whether any of these plans should be adopted.

Thank you for your consideration

Leo Naughton

62 Taunton Road