

Donna Conkling

From: Mayra Rodriguez Valladares <mrvassoc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 8:51 PM
To: Mayor
Cc: Clerk's Department; Carl Finger; Jane Veron; Bill Stern; Matthew Callaghan; Marc Samwick; Deborah Pekarek
Subject: Will Scarsdale be a Sanctuary Village?

Dear Mayor Mark,

I trust that you are well. It was good to hear your remarks about the intersection of county and municipal matters at the Forum's event on Thursday.

I write to encourage you to please say at least a few words at the next Board of Trustees meeting about the role of Scarsdale under the new administration in Washington. It has been disheartening that in an environment of rising anti-semitism, Islamophobia, and racism, neither Dr. Hagerman or the Board of Education nor anyone at Village Hall has said anything about the role of Scarsdale in these troubling times.

We have Muslim families here who are amazing people and who enrich the fabric of our community. These people are possibly hurting and feeling alienated. This is your chance to let these people know that while they may be small in number, we welcome how they make Scarsdale a better place.

Additionally, while I doubt that our residents are undocumented, we have many service providers such as nannies, housekeepers, waiters, and landscapers who are

undocumented. What protections are available for them if the Federal government orders municipalities to start checking documents?

What is the position of the Scarsdale government? What is the role of the police in terms of their requirements to cooperate with Federal authorities?

What about those of us who are not Caucasian, should we start walking around with birth certificates or passports to prove that we belong here? According to the latest census data available, over 20% of Scarsdale is comprised of minorities.

Please declare Scarsdale a sanctuary village.

According to Rabbi Dan Moskowitz of Temple Sholom in Vancouver "36 times in the Torah we are commanded to love the stranger, because we were once strangers in the land. You don't repeat something 36 times in the Torah unless it's really important."

I know that you have it in your heart to say something to provide comfort to Scarsdale in these trying times. We look to you for your leadership.

All the best,
Mayra

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