

To All :

Howard Blitman has asked me to forward his Letter to the Editor that appeared in the Scarsdale Inquirer this past Friday.

To the Editor :

At the Village Board Committee of the Whole meeting on November 29th discussing the Library Improvement , I made a number of important comments that were not reported in last week's paper. By way of background , I have lived in Scarsdale for 42 years and served as a Village Trustee. Professionally I have spent my career of 60+ years in construction , building more than 50 skyscrapers and the Rutgers University Library. I am also Past President of the National Society of Professional Engineers.

I have had the opportunity to review the potential development and changes to the Library in the Dattner Architects Schematic Design Report for the renovation and expansion of the Library . I am not in complete agreement with the project but feel that the schematic design and job is much too expensive and needs to be trimmed back. I feel that it would be proper for a professional group including a construction manager to sit with the architect and reconsider the plans to cut back some of the work without it having any effect to the proper handicap access and elevator and expansion of the children's room. This needs to be done with new drawings and schematics.

I am concerned about the statement in the meeting minutes at the Dattner Office with the Library Building Committee on June 25, 2015 under 4.1 that " In advance of the SD cost estimate , DA is concerned that the SPL's approved program is over the preliminary budget set at the Master Plan stage. We anticipate the maximum scheme could be at least 50 % more than the budget. "

I hope the Village Board will take these concerns into their consideration of the Library project .

Howard N. Blitman, P.E.
Elmdorf Drive

Based on the construction experience of Mr. Blitman and his very serious concerns over the size and cost estimates of the Library Project and now a new memo dated 12/9/2016 to the Village Board from Manager Pappalardo regarding the Library Project Cost Estimate that states that " the estimated project costs to be funded by the Village is \$ 10,017,150 which is excess of the \$ 9,900,000 identified in the bond authorization " and " these numbers represent our best effort at estimating the project costs AT THIS TIME and that the ARCHITECT HAS YET TO COMPLETE THE FINAL DESIGN PHASE WHICH WILL INCLUDE A FINAL COST ESTIMATE . The takeaway at this point is that the PROJECT BUDGET IS TIGHT " , the VILLAGE BOARD SHOULD TABLE THE LIBRARY RESOLUTIONS ON TUESDAY NIGHT'S AGENDA until final cost estimates are determined. !!!

Bob Harrison, Chairman
Scarsdale Taxpayer Alert
65 Fox Meadow Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583