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**By Email ([mayor@scarsdale.com](mailto:mayor@scarsdale.com))**

Board of Trustees of the Village of Scarsdale  
Mayor Marc Samwick  
Village Hall  
1001 Post Road  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

**Re: Request Regarding Naming of Field at Crossways Athletic Complex**

Greetings:

Please consider this letter in connection with the recent request submitted to the Scarsdale Board of Trustees regarding dedicating the football field at the Crossways Athletic Complex in the name of Richard 'Rippy' Philipps. I am a long time resident of Scarsdale, having called Scarsdale my home since 1989. I have also had the opportunity to see sports in Scarsdale from a number of different observation points. I have been fortunate to have been a youth sports recreation and travel coach, a founding member of the board of two youth sports organizations, a member (and chair) of the Scarsdale Village Advisory Council on Parks and Recreation, as well as a number of positions in the Scarsdale Maroon and White and an avid fan of Scarsdale schools sports. I have also been fortunate to have been involved in various aspects of the non-partisan Village of Scarsdale, including as a member of Scarsdale Bowl Nominating Committee, Scarsdale Citizens Nominating Committee Member, Board Member of United Way of Scarsdale-Edgemont and Member of the Scarsdale Board of Education's Advisory Committee on Legislative Issues.

I list these various positions, not to show my involvement in sports and community activities, but more to the point of showing that I have experienced sports and governance in Scarsdale from many different observation points and have seen the inner workings of many of the sports programs and community activities in Scarsdale. In all my years involved in both Scarsdale sports and Scarsdale governance, I have never, ever come across anyone like Rippy Philips. I have seen many dedicated parents and coaches and from time to time, seen and dealt with a fair number who did not seem to understand what sports and commitment can do for the community. I have also had the pleasure of interacting with a number of dedicated citizens who, with Village staff, make Scarsdale a standard bearer of an inclusive environment to raise a family amongst the challenges found in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Based upon what I would call a vast

experience of interacting with fellow Scarsdale citizens, I can say, with no hesitation, Rippy Philipps is one of our citizens who has many lasting positive effects on many of the citizens of Scarsdale.

Of course, Rippy is Mr. Scarsdale Youth Football, but if you asked Rippy, he would just acknowledge having some involvement in the program. Rippy has a special way of focusing folks on the commitment and accomplishments of others, letting the spot light shine on the youth participants, coaches, his family, and Rippy avoids any of the limelight. Since starting the present Scarsdale Youth Football program in the early 1990s, Rippy has devoted his incredible energy and untold amounts of time making this sports program a positive and fun experience for players and fans. The hundreds upon hundreds of young Scarsdale children who have come through the football program have learned valuable lessons from Rippy and the program he has run for some thirty years, including respect for teammates, opponents and officials, cooperation with fellow teammates for a team goal and forging friendships which last a lifetime. Those who have experienced the Rippy that I know, witness his kindness, humility and true warmth. As a model of good citizenship, in my opinion, Rippy sets a high bar that is objectively hard to touch. I know, for a fact, that more than one generation of Scarsdale children, has taken away much more than a love for sports, which Rippy gave, but a respect for others, that Rippy imparted to all that came into contact with him.

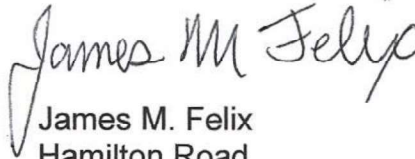
I also add to the football story, the fact that Rippy has been influential in other sports in Scarsdale. I recall always seeing Rippy at Scarsdale High School ice hockey games, as well as field hockey, boys and girls lacrosse, just to name of few. I have in my email inbox, countless emails from Rippy, inviting the community to come out and support one of the many High School sports teams, be it for a regular season event or playoff game. Rippy also always had all the youth football players of the younger grades, come to a Scarsdale Varsity Football game and race up the field at halftime to the cheers of students and parents, alike. I am sure if you asked any of hundreds and hundreds of Scarsdale past and present students, who Rippy Philipps was, the answers would be varied, but each one would demonstrate the lasting positive effect that Rippy's commitment to Scarsdale has on a vast number of Scarsdale students, parents of students and other residents.

Two more quick Rippy stories. Rippy has been instrumental in keeping those who played boys High School lacrosse in Scarsdale, or have close contact with the sport, together over the years. Rippy not only helped set up annual boys lacrosse alumni games, but hosted the players after at his house in Scarsdale. The pure joy of not only playing lacrosse with your friends was evident, but Rippy would move from former player to former player, making sure to learn of each alumni's life after high school, and at this point, Rippy was both a mentor and also, as time went on, a life-long friend. Second story, while I do not believe Rippy started this tradition, Rippy has certainly brought it to a new height. That is, at football events and other events, if anyone is getting an award or getting

recognized for accomplishments by the whole crowd, the Rippy rule is everyone give just one clap for that person. It not only allowed for a quicker celebration, but underlying it was clearly the point, congratulations on your accomplishment, but fanfare was not for individuals, but for the group.

In closing, again, I know that countless Scarsdale residents, as well as each member of my family, are better citizens because of the myriad of the tirelessly efforts that Rippy Philips has brought (and fortunately continues to bring) to those here in Scarsdale and beyond. I believe everyone that knows Rippy and many who have just heard of him, know how much Rippy loves Scarsdale. Respectfully, how fitting would it be to let Rippy know that Scarsdale loves him. To name the field in Rippy's honor would be not only fitting, but well deserved. Again and without reservation, please consider this letter (I apologize for the length) as expressing my unconditional support for naming the field at Crossway after Richard "Rippy" Philipps would be an appropriate place and way to acknowledge the decades of positive and tireless service Rippy has given to give to the Scarsdale Community.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Felix". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

James M. Felix  
Hamilton Road  
Scarsdale, NY

cc: Hon. Donna Conkling, Clerk of the Village of Scarsdale  
(via email: [clerk@scarsdale.com](mailto:clerk@scarsdale.com))