

24 January 2017

Good evening, I am Mayra and I reside on Fox Meadow Road.

THANK YOU Scarsdalians, for joining Article 78 and to those who did not, but have selflessly, provided countless hours of legal and quantitative counsel. Thanks to you, we raised the funds to bring Article 78 to fruition. And even today, more people are generously contributing financially to our cause for justice. Mayor and Board of Trustees, in this Petition, are our legal theories and evidence. I am not here to speak about those today. I am here to implore that you agree NOT to waste all taxpayers' money to fight us, your very own constituents. I respectfully encourage you to sit down with our lawyer, Robert Bernstein, who is here in the room, and resolve this amicably.

Last July, I came before you to read some of the emails I requested under the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL); unfortunately, over 2,400 emails are still missing. Even with what we have, everyone can read how poorly the reval was run by the Assessor's office and JF Ryan, both unsupervised by the Village Manager. After the August 17th meeting, when Ryan came and was unable to produce a single shred of evidence that a drive-by even took place or any documentation for the model he used but did not even design himself, the Mayor and BOT *still* did not invalidate the reval. In the last few weeks, we have uncovered Assessor Albanese's emails where she is directing changes in property assessments to favor certain residents and selected officials.

The last couple of weeks, Scarsdalians have come to our door to hand over their hard-earned money to join Article 78. Why have residents joined Article 78? The most common refrain I hear is 'I have lived here 20, 30, even 40 years, and I have lost faith in our governing process.' Many foreign born residents tell me that they do not understand how assessments work and did not even know there was such a thing as grieving taxes. A man, who trudged through the snow to hand deliver his check, simply wrote he was joining 'to clean up Scarsdale gov't.'

Why did I join Article 78? While I have been witness to horrid injustices both where I grew up in southern Texas and in the many emerging markets where I have worked, I have never taken to the streets to protest. I send money to causes; I write letters to politicians. And then the Ryan reval crashed into town. I am now an

accidental activist. Fighting the Ryan reval has become my second career. Every time I think I can no longer go on, I get a call or an email from an empty nester who tells me that she cannot stay in Scarsdale due to the unfair higher taxes that the Ryan reval will inflict on her. I have heard from single parents trying to juggle multiple responsibilities and the reval has only added to their stresses. Several of the over assessed have lost loved ones or are ill themselves, and are too mired in grief, to grieve their taxes and to come here tonight. These residents just want to be heard. If I quit challenging the abuses at the Assessor's office, will I be one more uncaring person who ignores these residents? How will I look at my kids in the eye, 'when they ask, mama what did you do today?'

I remind Mayor Marc and the Trustees that your fiduciary responsibility is to serve **all** Scarsdaliens, not just those who genuflect before you or curry your favor.

And to the anonymous internet trolls on 10583.com who hurl insults at the over assessed, please understand, *we* are not the enemy. We live with you in this picturesque village, which as a child, I was unaware even existed out outside of a fairytale book. Together we marvel at the changing of the leaves on a beautiful autumn day. Like you, we jostle for a seat on the crowded train, we raise our fists at speeding drivers on Crane Road, we have great food at Patisserie Salzburg, and we sure all end up at Zachy's, sooner or later.

Over assessed Scarsdaliens are unwitting victims of a few Scarsdale Village personnel and JF Ryan. Scarsdaliens, who are not part of Article 78, which choice will you make? Will you be a spectator at the theatre of the absurd? Or will you *eschew* the comfort of inaction, to lend us a helping hand to overturn this injustice and return good governance to Scarsdale?

And you, over assessed residents, I do *not* know if the courts will rule in our favor. I promise you my team will not give up trying to insure that your state and constitutional rights are not trampled upon. My team needs you to roll up your sleeves and stand up against those with a serious deficit in empathy for you who have been aggrieved. And above all else, when you arise every morning, always remember... that simply because we live in smaller houses...we... are not children of a lesser God.

