

## **Donna Conkling**

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**From:** Mayor  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2018 10:06 AM  
**To:** Donna Conkling  
**Subject:** Fw: Vote Against Changes to Sanitation Services

**Importance:** High

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**From:** Michael Ostow <michael.ostow@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 28, 2018 11:19 AM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** Vote Against Changes to Sanitation Services

Mr. Mayor,

I am pleading with you and the board of trustees to reject the recommendations of the CAC and make no changes to Scarsdale's sanitation services. I believe these changes will discourage recycling, penalize older and disabled residents, result in refuse accumulating on curbs, and weaken our property values. Food scrap recycling may be an admirable goal at a point in the future, but limited participation rates and rigorous cost benefit analysis do not support the recommended changes.

### **Changes will reduce recycling**

There can be no doubt that increasing the burden on residents to recycle will result in less recycling. When faced with the choice of binning refuse or walking it to the curb, many people will choose to dispose rather than recycle. This may not be everyone, everyday, but on the margin Scarsdale will see less recycling. Given the precarious state of our environment, we should make every effort to protect our planet and not erect more obstacles than we already have.

### **Changes penalize older residents, the disabled and single moms**

Many older residents, or those with infirmities or those who may be under-resourced will have difficulty bringing their recycling to the curb. This is unfair, and does not support Scarsdale's values of equity and inclusion.

### **Changes will make Scarsdale ugly**

Already, too many residents accumulate refuse and boxes on their front lawns in anticipation of bulk trash and paper recycling pickup. Forcing comingled recycling to the curb for weekly pickup will result in a great many more residents doing the same with their discarded items. One only needs to survey neighboring communities to see that is what will happen in Scarsdale. Accumulated trash on so many lawns and driveways will detract from the beauty of our neighborhoods and weaken property values. Please do not allow this to happen.

### **Changes are not justified**

Many Scarsdale residents are proud to live in a community with one of the highest recycling rates in Westchester. While every resident is capable of composting in appropriate containers in their own yards, none of us can recycle plastics and paper without the support of our community. The CAC report indicates anticipated participation rates for composting of

25% to 50% of residents, yet fewer than 800 residents are actively participating in the voluntary pilot program. Food scrap recycling is simply not needed at this time.

**Furniture donation is unrealistic**

While well-intentioned, the furniture donation recommendation fails to anticipate the burden on our community of bringing furniture to the recycling center.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these issues. We live in a high-tax community with many wonderful services that are delivered by committed and caring individuals. We should be extremely careful not to reject our very successful status quo as we seek service improvements.

The proposed changes will have a very negative impact on our level of recycling, on our residents and on the natural beauty of our neighborhoods. Marginally increased food scrap recycling does not justify the risk to our community.

Please vote against the changes to our sanitation services recommended by the CAC.

Sincerely,

Michael Ostow  
20 Butler Road