

Donna Conkling

From: robertbergesq@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, June 25, 2022 1:14 AM
To: Mayor; Attorney's Office; Manager's Department; Clerk's Department
Subject: Further Thoughts on Proposed Amendment to Village Sign Law

CAUTION: External sender.

Dear Mayor, Village Trustees, Village Attorney, and Village Manager:

This email is a follow up to my email last week which conveyed some of my thoughts regarding the proposed new Village sign law. While walking my dogs this past week -- and diligently scouring the pot-holed and crevassed streets in my "new" Secor Farm neighborhood to avoid again falling on my face -- I surveyed the assorted "signs" placed within the Village right of way in front of residences in my neighborhood. Beyond the typical "Go Raiders" or occasional "For Sale" sign (inventories being rather tight these days), I noticed a plethora of security (alarm) company signs, customized house number signs, "Don't let your dog pee or poop on the grass" signs, "Pesticide applied - Keep away for 24 hours" signs, electric dog fence flags, and a seasonal explosion of "Class of 22" signs all posted within the Village right of way.

Be careful what you wish for -- your proposed content-neutral sign law will require strict enforcement by our police officers and code enforcement officers -- no more will a resident complaint-driven enforcement program suffice to demonstrate uniform, unbiased enforcement. So while car thieves are roaming through our Village in the Park, seemingly unimpeded, as our residents leave their high-priced automobiles unlocked with keys in the ignition in their driveways for their shopping pleasure, our police officers will have to divert their attention to removing the hordes of Lawn Care and Tru Green pesticide warning signs from the lush green strips of Village right of way that Scarsdale Village residents are so generously, if mistakenly, maintaining for the Village in front of their homes. Then our busy police officers can turn to removing the security company signs, the house number signs, and all the literally thousands of other signs residents have unwittingly posted in the Village right of way in front of their homes. Is this really what you intend with your silly law? You ought to rename the law "The Village Sign Law of Unintended Consequences."

May I suggest that you focus instead on a real threat to traffic safety -- why don't you direct Village Staff to focus on enforcing current Village Code Chapter 294, Visual Obstructions. Literally thousands of violations of Section 294-1 -- trees, shrubs, fences, walls, or other structures -- can be found all over the Village, posing serious hazards to pedestrians, bicyclists, runners, and drivers, especially at street corners where overgrown foliage obscures visibility. The Village Engineer, Public Works Superintendent, and Village Manager are well aware of the pervasive problem; and nothing ever seems to get done to ameliorate the situation. Signs in the Village right of way? No one cares. Please focus on real problems -- streets that are in worse repair than the Donbas region of Eastern Ukraine, rampant grand theft auto, and intersections occluded by jungle-like growths of foliage.

Best personal regards,

Bob Berg