

March 8, 2016

The Honorable Jonathan Mark  
Mayor, Village of Scarsdale  
1001 Post Rd.  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

RE: Support for the Plans to Transform the Scarsdale Library

I am writing on behalf of my wife, Barbara Kessler, and I, in strong support for the plans to significantly transform the Scarsdale Library to better serve current and future generations of our community. This important initiative presents all of us with the unique and timely opportunity to enhance our esteemed Library, a most valuable community resource. The Library is committed to inclusion: serving all its residents, of every age and means. The Library also progressively serves residents with various disabilities. My wife and I have been Scarsdale residents for over 30 years. Our three children attended the Scarsdale schools and we all benefited living here. Professionally, Barbara was a librarian for over 30 years including working in the Scarsdale Public Library.

I, first, would like to personally thank the Mayor, the Village Trustees and Village staff for your efforts, professionalism and diligence in reviewing the Library Plans. I particularly would like to thank Steve Pappalardo, the Village Manager, Paul Zaicek, the Village Director of Capital Projects, for his valuable work and contributions in reviewing the technical aspects of the Plans and Mary Lou McClure, the Village Treasurer, in assisting the Library in preparing Village financial controls and oversight of the funds raised by the Library's capital campaign.

The Library Plans continue to be carefully reviewed by the Village Board of Trustees, the Library Board and Capital Campaign Committee. As long time Scarsdale residents, we fully appreciate and understand that the Village Trustees not only are reviewing the Library Plans on its individual merits but also in the broader context of other important community challenges and needs the Trustees are considering at this time. I would also like to assure my fellow Scarsdale residents, that all the members of the Library Board and the Library Capital Campaign Committee including my wife and I are local taxpayers and, we too, do appreciate the professional commitment of the Village Trustees in assessing all the current community needs.

The Library Transformation Plans have been carefully prepared by the Library Board to preserve the integrity of the Library in a cost controlled manner that will enable the Library to significantly and efficiently increase the services and programs provided to our community.

## IS THERE COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR ACTIVE LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SERVICES?

Community support for an active, vibrant and high quality Library is clearly demonstrated by the very high level of community usage of Library services and when compared to other Westchester communities. Additionally, the Library Board's surveys of community residents confirms residents' strong interest in maintaining and increasing Library programs & services. The Scarsdale community's high level usage of Scarsdale Library programs & services consistently increases year over year. Community usage includes all segments of our local community.

## WHY SHOULD THE VILLAGE APPROVE THE PLANS AT THIS TIME?

A low interest rate environment, strong community Library usage, a well developed, comprehensive design plan and lingering significant outstanding infrastructure repairs support acting sooner than later in approving funding for the Library plans. The Village Board properly states that there are other timely Village needs including infrastructure repairs and local school improvements; which we fully understand and respect as residents. However, there will always be on-going important community needs to be addressed. We look for our Village Board to continue to show the leadership and vision for longer term projects that the Village undertakes from time to time. Our community has a rich tradition of displaying leadership and vision in acting in the best interests of our community. We request that we continue this tradition in approving the Library plans.

Thank you again for your courtesy and professionalism in reviewing the Library Plans.

Sincerely,

Steve Kessler  
35 Brite Ave  
Scarsdale, NY 10583