July 11, 2006

By Facsimile

Mr. Chuck Lesnick, City Council President and
The Honorable Members of the Yonkers City Council
City Hall, Room 403
40 South Broadway
Yonkers, New York 10701

Re: Proposed Ridge Hill Village
City Council Meeting of July 11, 2006

Dear President Lesnick and Members of the City Council:

The members of the Greenburgh Town Council urge the City Council to reject the Ridge Hill development proposal until all of the necessary changes are made to protect our respective communities.

This project as it is now proposed will change lower Westchester more than any project in our county’s history. Its impact, if completed as proposed by the developer, will desecrate the entire region. The existing area and the communities bordering the proposed site are already under distress caused by decisions of past elected bodies which did not have the foresight to plan for regional growth without destruction of the resident’s quality of life. We do not want every elected body, be they in Greenburgh, Yonkers, County or State government, having articulated their arguments for years, have not one automobile reduced from this over development. All of our elected officials have to be unified in addressing environmental issues for our regions in Westchester to survive.

The Westchester County Planning Board has stated its opposition to the project on a number of occasions. The City Council of Yonkers has listened to hundreds of hours of expert testimony on ways to mitigate traffic and other factors generated by this project that will harm our environment, and the only meaningful answer is to reduce the density of the Ridge Hill Development. With reduced density all parties will gain in measurable ways - the region will not be completely overburdened with traffic congestion, the City will see the benefits from economic development, and the developer will reap high profits from a very large project.
As the current plan exists, the traffic problems have not been addressed. There has been no density reduction of the retail component of the project.

There is no difference between the size and scope of this project before this present City Council than the size and scope of the project that was before the previous City Council.

We support the position of the Yonkers neighborhood and civic associations, and the Ridge Hill Citizens Committee, and the sensible well thought out proposals they have offered to develop the area. As you read their letter you will learn of a list of serious concerns not addressed in the slightest by the current proposal.

Once again we implore all of you to oppose the current Ridge Hill proposal until all of the necessary mitigation issues are addressed.

Sincerely,

Eddie Mae Barthes
Councilwoman

Steve Bass
Councilman

Diana Boettner
Councilwoman

Francis Sheehan
Councilman