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October 16, 2018

Subject: Laura Curran to Laurel Hollow: Drop Dead

Dear Neighbor:

Yesterday we received a letter sent last week by regular mail from County Executive Laura Curran's Commissioner of Public Works, Kenneth Arnold. In it, he states that the County will not be completely repaving Cold Spring Road in Laurel Hollow. He claims it does not need it and the condition cannot justify the \$350,000 cost of paving. Instead, they will just patch the cement and repave the "asphalt shoulders."

This letter is so replete with inaccuracies that I would like to go through them. However, you should know that upon reading this letter, I realized that our excellent County Legislator Josh Lafazan and I were completely misled by the administration. After meeting with County staff from both Laura Curran's and Commissioner Arnold's offices and many conversations by phone and email, we were led to believe that the County would do a complete repave if they could find the money. In fact, we were told the Cold Spring Road repaving project from Woodbury Road to Laurel Hollow was held up for weeks so that the County could look for the money. However, after reading Mr. Arnold's letter, there clearly never was any intention to ever completely pave the Laurel Hollow portion of the road. Mr. Arnold, who was County Executive Mangano's Deputy Commissioner of Public Works, was in office when the Mangano administration broke the original promise to completely repave. Mr. Arnold never intended to go back on that decision, and County Executive Curran made us fools to believe it could happen.

The reasoning of Laura Curran's Commissioner is fallacious. Let's take a look:

Fiction: On behalf of the County, Mr. Arnold says the road is not unsafe. After all, they looked at 3 years of accident data.

Fact: The County conveniently ignores the accident data we provided: 34 accidents since 2012 and 2 deaths since 2009. We know the County has paid for settlements of lawsuits because of the road surface. People know the dangers this road presents. Just look at the comments of the 250 people who signed our petition.

Fiction: Patching the cement and paving the "shoulders" will be just fine.

Fact: There are many problems with this road. But one of the worst is the uneven seam where the cement meets the asphalt. Mr. Arnold is wrong when he describes "asphalt shoulders." The asphalt is actually part of the north-south driving lanes—not just the shoulders. Because the asphalt settles and breaks apart, it, along with the broken cement surfaces, produces a dangerous driving experience. Our engineer describes it as "differential settlement." The repaving may provide temporary relief, but we know it will not last. Years of living with this road have told us so.

Fiction: This is a federally funded project and we could not justify the added expense of a complete repave.

Fact: Any additional funds that were to be used for a complete repave were going to be County funds. No one was asking for additional federal funds. Moreover, in our meeting with County Executive staff and the Commissioner, we told them that because federal funds were involved in the larger road project, the County had to meet the federal legislative policy known as "complete streets." The County is required to consider in its road design every type of user for the street, including bicyclists and pedestrians. We informed the staff that our police reported in writing that "a number of incidents involving bicycle riders losing control on the uneven pavement along the shoulder of the road have occurred causing injuries to the bicyclists." Plus the empirical evidence offered by the experiences of our own residents (see petition comments) illustrates the lack of usability by pedestrians or bicyclists. The County never responded to these concerns and its patchwork design does not meet federal criteria as a complete street.

Fiction: There was discussion of the Village taking over the road and that was not an acceptable option by the Village.

Fact: At the meeting with the Laura Curran's staff, which included Mr. Arnold, the County offered to do the complete repaving if we agreed to take over plowing and other maintenance of the road. The Board of Trustees met and after careful consideration unanimously rejected the idea. It was a form of political blackmail. If the Village took on this ridiculously heavy burden and liability, the County in exchange would perform a complete paving. Why should the Village pay going forward for the expenses of this County road when we, the taxpayers, are simply asking for and deserve a paved road? We rejected their strong-arm tactics. The bigger point not to be missed, however, is that the County was willing to perform a complete repave, to fund it, and to complete it. They could have found the money if they had wanted. The County, however, was not willing simply to accept that we already pay a heavy tax burden and receive in return from the County virtually nothing as a Village except Cold Spring Road.

If you wish to record your dissatisfaction with the County Executive's decision, you can email her at LCurran@nassaucountyny.gov or phone her at (516) 571-3131.

One thing that has been inspiring during this process is the way our Laurel Hollow community has come together. People have made phone calls, written emails, signed petitions and more. I firmly believe more than ever that Laurel Hollow is the crown jewel of the North Shore.

Thank all of you for your assistance in this and other matters.

Sincerely yours,



Daniel F. DeVita
Mayor