

The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale
P.O. Box 495
Scarsdale, New York 10583

February 5, 2007

Mayor Peter Straus
Scarsdale Village Board Trustees
Members of the Scarsdale Board of Education
Members of the Scarsdale Teen Center Adult Board

Dear Friends:

Each year the League of Women Voters of Scarsdale (the "League") studies and comments upon the Village and School district budgets. After last year's budget reviews, the League concluded that it lacked sufficient information to comment meaningfully on the monies allocated by each of the two boards to the Scarsdale Teen Center (the "Teen Center"). As a consequence, the League undertook a study of the financing of the Teen Center. The League's study method, consensus, comments, and recommendations follow in a statement attached to this letter.

In summary, the League offers the following conclusions and recommendations:

- The Teen Center should continue to be funded through the Village and School district budgets.
- The Teen Center leadership has responded with significant positive steps to the funding cuts that were imposed several years ago and has demonstrated a willingness and ability to monitor costs, to report on Teen Center activities and finances, to increase programming and to reach and involve more students.
- It is critical for the two boards to increase their contributions to the Teen Center. Any decision by the Village and School boards to cut or even to maintain the current level of support from each board (\$65,625) will be tantamount to a vote to close down the facility and cease its operations.
- It is not realistic to expect that the leadership of the Teen Center can raise sufficient money to close the current gap between its expenses and income.
- Assuming that the Village and School district boards are satisfied each year with the efforts and achievements of the Teen Center in meeting the reporting and performance goals that have been set, the Village and School district boards each allocate equal and sufficient funds to meet, in the aggregate, at least 85 to 90 percent of the Teen Center's proposed yearly budget. The allocations by the two funding boards should include increases arising from annual inflation and other rises in cost and for the rebuilding and subsequent maintenance of the depleted Teen Center reserve fund.

We hope that the League's study and recommendations will be helpful to the Village and School district board members during the budget deliberations for the coming fiscal year.

Sincerely
Stacey Brodsky, Chair, Teen Center Study

