

TOWN OF NORTH SALEM Delancey Hall 266 Titicus Road North Salem, N.Y. 10560

Office of the Town Clerk Maria C. Hlushko

RESOLUTION #51-23 TO OPPOSE THE DRAFT ASSEMBLY REDISTRICTING PLAN PROPOSED BY THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION REGARDING THE 93RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Motion made by Supervisor Lucas Seconded by Councilwoman Daniels

WHEREAS, the Town of North Salem has always been part of the 93rd Assembly District; and

WHEREAS, this representative boundary recognizes and respects the deep intermunicipal ties among these similarly situated communities it encompasses; and

WHEREAS, the towns in Northeastern Westchester; North Salem, Somers, Lewisboro, Bedford, Mount Kisco and Pound Ridge share a wide range of interests and concerns and, work on a variety of projects together, and

WHEREAS, our elected officials meet with the other elected officials on a monthly basis discussing all of the local issues affecting our County, and

WHEREAS, we share interests and essential municipal functions between North Salem, Somers, Lewisboro, Bedford, Mount Kisco, Pound Ridge and other Northeastern Westchester communities which include, but are not limited to, the following:

 <u>Northern Westchester Watershed Consortium (NWWC)</u>: North Salem collaborates with Mt. Kisco, Bedford and other Northern Westchester communities to address the significant environmental issues to those communities uniquely situated within the NYC water shed which subjects our communities to Northern Westchester Watershed Consortium and the East of Hudson Watershed Coalition agreement and regulations. Our sensitive location requires collective efforts to protect the watershed and carries with it mandates that only these coalition communities can address with a united effort. It is critical to the success of the East of Hudson Watershed Corporation (EOHWC) that these communities continue to work together under the oversight of our state representatives familiar with our NYS MS4 mandates. This has significantly helped our communities with the NYS MS4 expense leveraging the State and NYC DEP funding for these municipalities.

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- 2. <u>93rd Assembly district support is critical to our broader concerns</u>: Our communities share common waste water issues as the overwhelming majority of our residents are on septic systems with sewers only located in more densely populated areas. Monitoring and ensuring the health of septic systems within the Westchester County Board of Health and the New York City watershed areas carries with it special challenges unique to these communities but which carry wide-ranging implications for the safety of NYC's drinking water. To that end, North Salem's representatives in the New York State legislature appropriated \$300,000.00 for EOHWC to perform an assessment on facilities needed for wastewater disposal to protect the NYC watershed and the safety of North Salem's water quality, directly benefitting North Salem.
- 3. <u>Croton and Kensico Water Intermunicipal Committee (CKWIC)</u>: The Town of North Salem, along with Bedford, Somers, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge, Mount Kisco, Yorktown, North Castle and New Castle, created the Croton Kensico Watershed Intermunicipal agreement, bringing all communities with land in the Croton and Kensico watersheds in Westchester together to implement programs and policies to protect New York City's drinking water.
- 4. <u>Westchester Emergency Medical Service Advanced Life Support</u>: North Salem, Bedford, Somers, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge, Mount Kisco, Yorktown, North Castle and New Castle have successfully collaborated to create a coalition to provide Advanced Life Support to our communities. For more than 22, years we have provided skilled ALS services to our communities in a timely and cost-efficient manner. These services are all the more critical when it is recognized that these communities are served by volunteer ambulance services for basic life support.
- 5. <u>I684/84 Consortium</u>: The Town of North Salem has worked closely with the towns of Somers, Lewisboro and Bedford and with the NYS Department of Transportation on a study for the I684 corridor which impacts all of Northeastern Westchester County. These towns have been greatly impacted by the over use of our side roads to mitigate I684 traffic and as a group have had meetings with NYMTC and the NYS DOT regional director and our 93rd district representation is critical to our success.
- 6. <u>Northeastern Westchester Wireless Study</u>: To provide consistent phone access to our residents, as a group, North Salem, Bedford, Mount Kisco, Somers, Lewisboro and Pound Ridge have worked collectively on a Northeastern Wireless Study to support cell coverage and cell tower placement throughout our communities. This

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was possible because of the close working relationship of our municipalities on a wide variety of consortiums and groups listed in this resolution.

7. <u>Westchester Municipal Officials Association (WMOA)</u> and <u>Westchester</u> <u>Supervisor's Association (WPATS)</u>: The Town is heavily invested in our local Associations and we work with and educate each other on issues of concern working with; Bedford, North Castle, New Castle, Somers, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge and Mount Kisco in various issues. Because of New York State law, Westchester Towns are different and we do not share the same concerns or timelines with other Towns on items such as taxes collection and budgets; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Salem is an integral part of the core of the 93rd Assembly District; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Salem has been a part of a northern Westchester Assembly District dating back as far as 1906; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Redistricting Commission draft plan issued on or about December 1, 2022 that would remove the Town of North Salem from the 93rd Assembly District, resulting in irreparable harm and disruption to the strong ties and communities of interest which the Town of North Salem, its residents, its businesses and its community organizations enjoy and rely upon; and

WHEREAS, the draft plan would dismember the core of the 93rd Assembly by removing the Town of North Salem from it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of North Salem hereby strongly and emphatically opposes any removal of the Town of North Salem from the 93rd Assembly District since we have longstanding common interests with those municipalities within the 93rd Assembly District, disruption of which would be disastrous to the well-being and safety of our communities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that for all of the reasons stated the Town Board of the Town of North Salem implores the Independent Redistricting Commission to retain the Town of North Salem in the 93rd Assembly District; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Town Board of the Town of North Salem respectfully suggests to the Independent Redistricting Commission that the Commission consider substituting the draft Assembly plan with the 2022 Assembly district map presently in effect which fairly and equitably

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fulfills all statutory redistricting requirements and criteria which the Independent Redistricting Commission is obligated to apply; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of the Town of North Salem is hereby requested to forward a certified copy of this duly adopted resolution of the Town Board of the Town of North Salem to each member of the Independent Redistricting Commission, Governor Kathy Hochul, NYS Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, NYS Senator Peter Harckham, NYS Assemblymember Chris Burdick, Congressmember Michael Lawler and County Legislator Erika Pierce.

Supervisor Lucas - Aye Councilman Aronchick – Aye Councilwoman Daniels – Aye Councilman Golisano – Aye Councilman Kamenstein – Aye Resolution Adopted. I, Maria C. Hlushko, Town Clerk of the Town of North Salem, County of Westchester, State of New York, do certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the Town Board of said Town at a meeting held on January 24, 2023.

. C. Hushko

Maria C. Hlushko, Town Clerk