



TOWN of GREENBURGH

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR

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PAUL J. FEINER
Supervisor

July 12, 2011

Mayor Leo Weigman*
Village of Croton on Hudson
One Van Wyck Street
Croton, NY 10520

RE: FOLLOW UP SUGGESTIONS RE: CLARKSTOWN ARBITRATION PANEL
AWARD: 1) PROVIDE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH ANNUAL LISTING OF
ARBITRATION AWARDS AROUND THE STATE. 2) PROVIDE LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS WITH DATA BASE/COMPARISON OF SALARIES AND
BENEFITS FOR SIMILAR JOBS. 3) IF ARBITRATION IS NOT ELIMINATED
NYS SHOULD SET MAXIMUM ARBITRATION AMOUNT AT 2% TAX CAP
LEVEL

Dear Mayor Weigman,

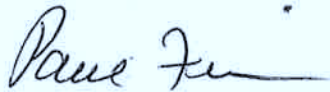
Last week's decision by an arbitration panel - increasing police salaries by 3.4% in Clarkstown, highlights the need for the state government to provide local governments with more information about what other communities are doing when it comes to salaries. I believe that the state should end arbitration and provide local governments with the ability to set the salaries we can afford. Until that happens, it would be helpful if the state provided all local officials with a listing of all arbitration awards on an annual basis. This would help local governments decide whether it's prudent to try to settle a contract with the police/firefighters without going to arbitration. It would help us negotiate a better deal.

In addition, I think that the state should provide local governments with a comparison of salaries and benefits for similar jobs (police chief, captains, commissioners, employees, etc.). Although salaries of all NYS employees are currently posted on the website, it's difficult to compare salaries and benefits that different communities offer for the same jobs. The postings are for names of employees - not for job titles. We need more information about the entire package being offered to employees around the state. Some benefits are hidden - vacation time, longevity, uniform allowances, sick pay incentive, overtime differential rates, medical buyouts, etc.

Finally, if NYS is not going to eliminate arbitration (and I think they should) another option would be to set the maximum arbitration amount at the 2% tax cap level. If we

want to limit tax hikes, how can we successfully meet the challenge if salaries will exceed the tax cap?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Feiner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul J. Feiner
Greenburgh Town Supervisor

PJF:ca