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June 11, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, I am writing to express my strong support for funding for a swimming pool at Westchester County's Croton Point Park through the NY SWIMS program.

A public swimming pool would be a tremendous asset to Westchester County. While undoubtedly some residents of Croton-on-Hudson would enjoy such a pool, it would be a regional resource with broad benefits.

A pool would provide a safe and accessible space for residents of all ages to enjoy the benefits of swimming, including:

- **Improved health and fitness:** Swimming is a low-impact exercise that promotes cardiovascular health, muscle strength, and flexibility.
- **Water safety education:** A public pool would offer swimming lessons, teaching valuable water safety skills that could help prevent drownings.
- **Socialization and recreation:** The pool would be a place for people to connect, relax, and have fun. This is especially important for children and older adults who may benefit from social interaction.

A county pool at Croton Point Park would be the only such pool in the northern half of the county. It would be of particular benefit to those with low-to-moderate incomes who do not have access to swimming through private pools or clubs.

The seasonal influx of visitors to the Croton River area, where swimming is prohibited, highlights the need for safe public swimming options. There are no lifeguards or safety measures on the Croton River and over the years there have been a number of drownings. The creation of a county pool in Northern Westchester is an important public health and safety investment.

For the aforementioned reasons, I wholeheartedly endorse funding a county pool at Croton Point Park through NY SWIMS and urge the creation of this valuable asset to our region.

Sincerely,

Bryan T. Healy
Village Manager