

Minutes of the Work Session Meeting  
Of the Board of Trustees of the  
Village of Larchmont, N.Y.  
**held on Monday, May 3, 2021**

The Board of Trustees held this meeting via Zoom with Mayor Walsh calling the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Instructions to join the meeting were published on the Village website calendar.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Lorraine Walsh  
Trustees Carol Casazza Herman  
Peter Fanelli  
Sarah Bauer  
Brigid Brennan

**Also present:** Administrator Datino

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Bauer, and unanimously carried, the following resolution carried:

RECOMMENDING  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS: the COVID-19 pandemic has cast a bright light on housing, courts, and access to justice;

WHEREAS the Village of Larchmont is committed to increasing access to the legal counsel for self-represented litigants;

WHEREAS the unprecedented health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are compounding and intensifying the legal needs of many Westchester individuals, including that:

- 1) as many as 31,557 renter households in Westchester, 23.7% of the total, could be facing eviction in the next few months<sup>[1]</sup>, stressing non-profits, municipal services, and creating a human and public health crisis;
- 2) even before the COVID-19 pandemic, Westchester had some of the highest eviction rates in the state; and

WHEREAS pandemic-driven evictions are at Larchmont's doorstep even with the COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2020;

WHEREAS the plight of renters facing eviction is disruptive, destabilizing, and can have long term personal and financial negative consequences for the families and the community at large;

WHEREAS an eviction, once entered, affects a tenant's credit and impacts the ability to obtain safe and healthy housing in the future without a process to seek or expunge the prior eviction;

WHEREAS residents do not have a right to counsel in eviction proceedings;

WHEREAS 93 percent of landlords are represented in court in Westchester while only 7 percent of tenants are represented and in New York City, tenants were found to win 80 percent of the time once represented;

WHEREAS there is therefore an imbalance in legal knowledge and legal processes places Larchmont families facing the loss of their home at a significant disadvantage;

WHEREAS landlords are also harmed when tenants are evicted, given that they fact long or short term vacancies, re-letting costs, and potential loss of rental arrears when tenants are evicted;

WHEREAS currently, state, county, municipal, and private source funds are available to landlords on behalf of tenants to pay late rent and even future rent for persons impacted by COVID-19.

WHEREAS there is precedent for providing legal services to tenants in New York State, as seen in New York City with Interro-214 and in Monroe County.

THEREFORE the Village of Larchmont Board of Trustees resolves as follows:

RESOLVED that the Village of Larchmont Board of Trustees encourages the Westchester County Board of Legislators and the County Executive to take steps to address the impact of eviction proceedings on Westchester communities;

RESOLVED that the Village of Larchmont Board of Trustees encourages the Westchester County Board of Legislators and the County Executive to enact legislation guaranteeing Westchester tenants the Right to Counsel in eviction proceedings across Westchester County.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Bauer, and unanimously carried, it was:

**RESOLVED**, to appoint, Joseph Aboudi, to the position of Police Officer with the Larchmont Police department, the effective date of said appointment shall be 5/10/2021, with a starting annual salary of PO 2<sup>nd</sup> step \$68,454 and said permanent appointment is subject to Civil Service Rules and a probationary period of 52 weeks.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Brennan, and unanimously carried, it was:

**RESOLVED**, allocating \$45k of the Isaac donation to Constitution Park to the landscape plan to be held in tree trust.