

From the desk of  
Martin J. McLaughlin  
Barrington Hills Village President

To Residents, Elected and Appointed Officials and Employees of the Village of Barrington Hills:

As a follow up to the Board of Trustees Meeting held on January 26, 2015, under the legal authority granted to the President of the Village of Barrington Hills pursuant to 1-6-6(d)(1) of the Barrington Hills Village Code, I will appoint Special Counsel, David Sterba former Appellate Court Judge, to commence an inquiry into whether there was any improper influence, or conduct by any appointed or elected Barrington Hills Officials relating to all phases of the commercial horse boarding legislation, from initiation to approval by the ZBA and passage by the Board of Trustees.

I am on the record stating that I do not support the language of the horse boarding Ordinance 14-19 approved by the Board, as evidenced by my veto. My decision to employ Special Counsel to conduct a review of the events surrounding commercial boarding is in no way motivated by the text of the Ordinance itself, but rather, there is a concern about the circumstances gave rise to the resulting Ordinance, including the path it took through the ZBA and Board of Trustees. Numerous allegations have been made at both public meetings and in filings with the Village, challenging the process of the Ordinance and the conduct of certain Village Officials. The Village residents have the right to know that the process by which the approval of Village legislation is free from any outside influence or impropriety.

As Village President, I expect current and formally elected and/or appointed officials called upon by Special Counsel, as well as all others employed by the Village, whether on contract or otherwise, to fully cooperate by providing complete and truthful answers to questions, as well as to timely furnish Special Counsel with all relevant information and documentation in his or her possession or control. This includes providing information to Special Counsel on “who” or “where” other unavailable, but known, information may be found.

I trust in the spirit of cooperation, members of the public will choose to do the same. While the focus of this inquiry is intended to be geared toward process or circumstances upon which commercial boarding legislation originated and proceeded through the ZBA and Board of

Trustees, I will not prevent Special Counsel from exploring further avenues relating to commercial horse boarding should information obtained during the course of his investigation lead to such inquiry.

At this time, my role as Village President will be to provide Special Counsel with any requested information on the subject matter of horse boarding in Barrington Hills. I will allow Special Counsel to perform this work free from interference or influence. Therefore, until the Report of Special Counsel is made available, I will have no further public comment on this matter.

On the expectation that individuals called upon by Special Counsel will fully cooperate in timely fashion, I anticipate the job of Special Counsel will be completed and a written Report furnished no later than sixty (60) days from the date Special Counsel is formally retained. To the extent the Village is legally able; the results of this investigation will be made available to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M.A. McLaughlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Martin McLaughlin, Village President

February 12, 2015