



VILLAGE OF

V A L L E Y S T R E A M

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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EDWIN A. FARE
Mayor

**State Comptroller Responds to Valley Stream Mayor Fare on
Green Acres Mall IDA PILOT
Agrees to Audit School District Based Upon
“Disproportionate” Tax Increases**

DERMOND E. THOMAS
Deputy Mayor

JOHN L. TUFARELLI

February 13, 2017

VINCENT M. GRASSO

SEAN WRIGHT
Trustees

In response to the request of Valley Stream Mayor Ed Fare in November 2016, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli has agreed to audit Valley Stream School District #30, based upon Fare’s observation that the district “grossly underreported” projected income from the Green Acres Mall/Industrial Development Agency PILOT, resulting in large tax increases for all Valley Stream property owners.

In Fare’s November 30, 2016 letter to DiNapoli he stated “this was an error that led to the wildly disproportionate tax increase that was imposed upon our residents, not only of School District #30, but also School Districts #13 and #24, as part of the Valley Stream Central High School District.”

Upon learning the news that DiNapoli will not only be auditing the School District, but also the Town of Hempstead Industrial Development Agency, Fare stated, “It is very significant when the State Comptroller heeds the request of a local mayor to investigate what has become a devastating financial burden upon our residents. Our hope is that Mr. DiNapoli will find some way in which to right this wrong, and ensure that any overpayments of taxes are returned to the people.”

“We anxiously await the results of this audit,” Fare concluded.

(see attached November 30 letter)

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VILLAGE HALL on THE VILLAGE GREEN, VALLEY STREAM, NEW YORK 11580
VILLAGE HALL MAIN PHONE NUMBER: 516-825-4200 FAX: 516-825-8316
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VILLAGE OF
V A L L E Y S T R E A M

November 30, 2016

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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DEPUTY MAYOR

DERMOND E. THOMAS

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ADMINISTRATOR

ROBERT D. BARRA

Hon. Thomas P. DiNapoli
New York State Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12236

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli:

As I am sure you are aware, the residents of the Incorporated Village of Valley Stream have been unfairly burdened by the Green Acres Mall (Macerich Corporation) Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) that was instituted by the Town of Hempstead Industrial Development Agency (IDA.)

Only a very small portion of the mall property falls within the boundaries of the Village, therefore the Village taxes have not been adversely impacted, with no increases necessary due to this PILOT. However, this is not the case with the three elementary school districts that feed the Valley Stream Central High School District, and in particular School District #30, within which the mall is entirely situated.

School District #30, as required by law, submitted its "Tax Cap Calculation" to your office in March 2016. Upon review, we note that the projected income from the PILOT was grossly underreported, and believe that this was an error that led to the wildly disproportionate tax increase that was imposed upon our residents, not only of School District #30, but also School Districts #13 and #24, as part of the Valley Stream Central High School District.

I am calling upon your good offices to conduct a top to bottom review of the budgeting procedures that were employed by School District #30 to determine if indeed errors were made, whether intentional or not, and what if any relief is available to our residents in the form of tax rebates or reductions in the future. Whether by misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance, please find a way to right this wrong behalf of Valley Stream's taxpayers.

Sincerely,

EDWIN A. FARE
Mayor

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