



# Gedney Association

P.O. Box 134 • Gedney Station • White Plains, NY 10605

December 15, 2015

Mayor Thomas Roach  
City of White Plains, New York  
255 Main Street  
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Mayor Roach:

The "new" FASNY group, Neighbors ACT, that introduced itself to the Common Council recently, is hardly new. Most of these people have already been involved with the FASNY effort. Interestingly, two-thirds of the 50 addresses listed in the letter are from outside the Gedney Farms neighborhood. This paltry list of 90 names hardly compares with the 2,000 residents of White Plains who signed an earlier petition against approval of the school. Many of the members of this "new group" have some relationship with the school. Most significantly and troubling is that two are members of the FASNY Board of Trustees despite a school source saying that FASNY has no connection with the group. However, it appears that the "new group" is, in fact, sponsored by FASNY.

Gedney Farms and its adjoining neighborhoods have been under siege by FASNY and its proposal for a massive regional school for more than four years. The neighborhood was forced to expend considerable funds and time to present the real facts regarding a proposal that should never have been considered. As predicted, area home values declined measurably as potential buyers saw the likely impact on the neighborhoods in the south end of the City. Regrettably, despite clear evidence to the contrary, FASNY's PR machine has repeatedly attempted to marginalize the widespread opposition to the project by suggesting that only a small, vocal group was against it.

FASNY's behavior and tactics during the process has been most unusual and frankly unbecoming for a non-profit institution. First they purchased the property without normal due diligence. They said they wanted to be accepted by the neighborhood. However, when the neighborhoods in the south end of the City

expressed serious reservations with the project FASNY doubled down dismissing those against it and advocated closure of a neighborhood street saying it was integral to their site plan. Forget that the street was integral to the neighborhood for close to 100 years. When FASNY realized that they may not have the requisite votes for approval, the Chair of the School, Ms. Andrea Colombel Soros, published a full-throated diatribe threatening a lawsuit which many understandably took as an attempt to intimidate the Common Council. After the vote, FASNY filed a lawsuit so weak and disjointed that it found it necessary to stoop to disparaging the Council members who voted against closure of the road. Now, in the midst of their nuisance lawsuit a "new" group suddenly emerges that pretends not to be associated with the school despite two of its members serving on the school Board.

When does FASNY stop the deceit and harassment? How long will it continue to tarnish its reputation? We ask you, Mayor Roach, as leader of our City, to request FASNY to refrain from any more harassment of the Common Council members who voted against the road closure. Such harassment in the midst of ongoing litigation is both improper and ill-advised.

It's time for FASNY to accept the Common Council's decision and move on and for the former Ridgeway Country Club to be acquired by a new owner that understands the zoning of the property and the views and concerns of the neighborhoods that surround the property.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Sheehan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John E. Sheehan  
President  
The Gedney Association

Cc: Members of the Common Council