

LETT

An Open Letter To Dist. 1 Reps Cady, Mandell and Starr

I object to "A Solution for the Y and for Westport" as proposed by my three RTM representatives of District 1. It infers that the majority of the residents in District 1 supports this solution. I believe this to be not accurate. I am 100 percent opposed to this solution.

I commend my RTM reps for their hard work and long hours on the RTM. It is indeed a thankless job. All the more reason for them not to waste their time and energy, on an option that has been rejected from the very beginning, by First Selectwoman Diane Farrell. Followed by First Selectman Joseloff's denial of our former State Rep. Ken Bernhard's suggestion to trade Winslow Park property for equal acres of Mahackeno property. At this very moment our first selectman plans to build low-cost housing on Baron's South and maybe expand the senior

center. Is anyone so naive as to think that "the Family Y" at Baron's South, with low-cost housing and the Senior Center would have less objections to clear, than it has now at Mahackeno?

Incidentally, Mr. Mandell represents District 1. However his home address is 38 Partrick Road, which is very close to the Mahackeno traffic pattern.

For those who advocate a central location, why aren't you beating a path to Town Hall to persuade Mr. Joseloff that it's OK for a private organization to build on town property. Don't just say "No" to Mahackeno. Give us a viable option.

Also, is Mahackeno really in residential property? There is state property (Merritt Parkway) to the north. A commercial restaurant to the west. A pond to the east and it borders residential properties to the south with a buffer zone in between, created by the Y.

The NIMBY's have had their say. We have had 10-plus years to rush into this application to build a new Y. The Y is entitled to build on property they have owned longer than most (if not all) nearby residents.

It's time for all Westport taxpayers who recognize the need for a new Family Y to get on the bandwagon and "Make Mahackeno Happen."

ROBERT C. GILL
WESTPORT