

**RESOLUTION RE:                    MANDATE RELIEF - PROPERTY TAX CAP**

**WHEREAS,** the level of property taxation throughout New York had reached dangerously high levels; and

**WHEREAS,** New York leads the nation in property taxes simply because we lead the nation in imposing inefficient state mandates on our local governments; and

**WHEREAS,** two of the largest components of every municipal budget over which local officials have little control – pension payments and health insurance costs – are increasing at exorbitant rates; and

**WHEREAS,** in the case of pension costs, bills from the State Retirement System will increase by an average of 40% in both 2011 and 2012; and

**WHEREAS,** state laws pertaining to the collective bargaining of contracts between municipalities and employee unions, particularly those pertaining to firefighters and police officers, do not allow local officials to reasonably control the costs such contracts impose on property taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS,** as a solution to New York’s property tax crisis, the Governor of New York and the New York State Legislature will, in 2011, consider enactment of legislation imposing a cap on the annual growth in property taxes; and

**WHEREAS,** a property tax cap will only work if it is simultaneously accompanied by a repeal of current state mandates that require local governments to increase spending and property taxes; and

**WHEREAS,** a property tax cap without repeal of costly state mandates will, by definition, lead to drastic cuts in essential local services and dramatic layoffs of municipal employees; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** by the Village of Scarsdale that the Governor of the State of New York and the members of the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly must reform the cost drivers that lead to high property taxes in New York – including pension benefits, health insurance costs and the collective bargaining process – as the central element of any effort to provide overdue property tax relief to the residents and businesses of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, Assembly Speaker and Minority Leader, Senator Oppenheimer, Member of Assembly Paulin, and the New York State Conference of Mayors.

Submitted by: Village Manager  
Date: January 6, 2011  
For: January 11, 2011