



TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

200 South Greeley Avenue, Chappaqua, New York 10514 • (914) 238-4771 • Email: townboard@mynewcastle.org • mynewcastle.org

Supervisor

Robert J. Greenstein
(914) 238-4774

Council Members

Lisa S. Katz
Deputy Town Supervisor
(914) 238-4774

Hala Makowska
(914) 238-4774

Ivy A. Pool
(914) 238-4774

Jeremy M. Saland
(914) 238-4774

Town Administrator

Jill Simon Shapiro
(914) 238-4742

March 18, 2019

VIA EMAIL

Senator Peter Harckham
188 State Street, Legislative Office Building
Room 812
Albany, NY 12247

Assemblyman David Buchwald
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building 331
Albany, NY 12248

Re: Cut in Aim Funding

Dear Senator Harckham & Assemblyman Buchwald:

We wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your support in fighting against the \$59 million cut to the AIM program which, if enacted, would take \$87,471 in critical resources away from the Town of New Castle. We acknowledge that AIM funding only accounts for about 1% of our non-tax revenue. As a percentage it doesn't seem like much, but in practical matters it's not insignificant as it pays for a police officer or the purchase of two police vehicles. The worst part of this is the timing. We have already adopted a budget assuming these funds would be forthcoming. If we don't get these funds we will have to fill a budget gap.

We hope we can count on the State Legislature to not only restore the \$59 million in AIM funding but also provide an increase in municipal aid for the first time in a decade. We can assure you this investment will be well worth the return, not only for our communities, but for the State as a whole.

In addition to an increase in unrestricted aid, we respectfully request that you fight for and include the following proposals in your one-house budget:

CHIPS Funding – Locally owned roads are in need of repair, and cities and villages throughout New York need increased funding from our state partner to effect those repairs. The Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) has the potential to help municipalities close this ever-increasing funding gap, but not if the funding levels remain stagnant. An increase in CHIPS will not only improve the safety of our highways and bridges, but it will grow the economy and enhance the quality of life in all regions of the State.

Internet Sales Tax – We strongly support the Executive Budget proposal that would require marketplace providers to collect the sales tax on merchandise sold online to New York residents. The estimated increase in both State and local sales tax revenue would relieve pressure on local property taxes, as well as eliminate the competitive disadvantage experienced by our local brick and mortar retailers.

Recreational Marijuana Impact Aid and Opt-Out – As New York gives serious consideration to legalizing adult-use cannabis, the State Legislature must ensure that, if legalized, a portion of the taxes imposed on this new industry make their way to cities and villages, the levels of local government that will be most affected by the far-reaching impacts on public safety, land use, and local economies. We must ensure that this additional revenue is equitably and reliably distributed to all local governments, rather than leaving the disbursement of the funds to the discretion of the county. Additionally, every city and village must be given the authority to opt out of having dispensaries located in their community.

We recognize that there are many priorities that must be considered in the context of the State Budget, but we sincerely hope that you can appreciate the widespread positive impacts that would result from the initiatives outlined above.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

New Castle Town Board