Dear Harrison Resident:

On October 15 2013, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) issued a Notice of Violation to the Town for the operation of a solid waste management facility within 1,000 feet of the Kensico Reservoir and Reservoir Stem. They directed that we immediately cease all importation, transportation, storage and transfer of all organic materials to the site, including leaves, brush and grass. Their contention was that runoff from these materials may have a deleterious effect on the drinking water supply.

The Town has worked diligently with the NYCDEP to obtain a variance that would allow us to continue using the facility as an organic yard waste transfer station. The variance was granted in January 2015. However, under a directive issued by the NYCDEP the Town is now prohibited from accepting and processing all grass clippings. *Therefore, effective immediately, Town personnel shall no longer collect grass clippings placed curbside, neither loose nor in brown bags, or from gardeners who have a permit to dispose of organic waste at our transfer station. Mixing of grass clippings with acceptable organic materials or household garbage is prohibited. We will continue to accept bagged leaves, bundled brush, and bulk leaves (in season).*

As a result, we have begun to retrofit our equipment to allow Town forces to mulch mow all grass on Town properties and will not collect and transport this material to the site. We are suggesting that residents do the same.

The benefits of mulch mowing include creation of healthier soils in turf areas, reduction of organic pollutants entering reservoirs, streams and Long Island Sound, and reduction of the total volume of organic materials to be processed.

We are working closely with the Greenburgh Nature Center, who in cooperation with Westchester County, supports LELE Program – Love 'Em and Leave 'Em, which promotes mulch mowing. They will provide mulch mowing demonstrations at dates to be announced.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Anthony P. Robinson

Commissioner of Public Works