

Village of Mamaroneck  
Richard Slingerland, Village Manager  
123 Mamaroneck Avenue  
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

March 6, 2013

Dear Mr. Slingerland:

A short while ago I contacted Trustee Leon Potok regarding Mamaroneck's contract with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). He suggested I submit a proposal.

I have reviewed the contract with the USDA. This is a highly controversial contract, as you are likely aware... and I believe that the Village of Mamaroneck can accomplish its goal regarding its geese residents with zero killing, far less expense to Mamaroneck taxpayers, AND a guarantee of a successful outcome for all.

Enclosed please find a description of our work, background, and a brief description of the scope and cost under our proposal.

Please contact me by phone or email with any questions you may have. I would be pleased to meet in person with you, Mayor Rosenblum and the Board of Trustees, to discuss further.

Thanking you in advance for your kind assistance,

WESTCHESTER WILDLIFE MGMT AND ADVOCACY SERVICES

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## QUALIFICATIONS

We are longtime, well-established advocates in the Westchester area. Our work has been reported by all major-market media, including NEWS 12, Foxny Channel 5, WCBS Radio and THE JOURNAL NEWS. Our letters and articles have appeared in such publications as the NY TIMES, NY NEWSDAY, NY DAILY NEWS, NY POST, etc.

We have worked extensively with politicians on both sides of the political fence, including the Office of County Executive Rob Astorino, Mayor Philip Amicone, Town Supervisor Paul Feiner and Scarsdale Mayor Miriam Flisser, as well as with Community Boards in the Bronx and Connecticut.

Our members include respected, top-knowledged wildlife experts who have also worked with the County Executive's Office, plus experienced rehabilitators, attorneys members of every single community in Westchester – all on a voluntary basis, all committed to finding the most efficient, cost-effective, peaceful, least harmful methods of enjoying and respecting wildlife – which is after all endemic to Westchester – while working with a portion of the community who seek some modification in this area. We are in touch with experts from all across the country. **We approach all situations with creativity, intelligence, sensitivity to the needs of the public and the rights of wildlife to not be killed needlessly...all with the well-thought out plan of the utmost cost-efficiency, which is always highly preferred by resident tax payers of every venue.** The Village of Mamaroneck has already spent \$30,000 on clean-up equipment; this can be put to good use in conjunction with our low cost, effective disbursal plan (although it is not a necessary component of our proposal, its use will likely help justify its expenditure).

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## INTRODUCTION

Unfortunately slaughtering geese has previously occurred in Westchester, in an inadvertent effort to ‘control’ the population. Our efforts, as reported by the press, have been successful in at least forestalling future attempts, which make killing geese too easy and commonplace, before considering any alternatives. In addition claims of killing geese and ‘feeding them to the poor’ are media spin to make the public feel less bad about geese and their babies being killed pointlessly...and in fact are doing a disservice to the public, as we will prove. *There is also actually no evidence that the residents of any venue want the geese killed...* it is likely that most want all alternative avenues explored prior to *any* killing; many humans cringe at the sight of pain and suffering of sentient beings – which is why we request such slaughters (‘culls’) be aired on public television stations: ‘Think occasionally of the suffering of which you spare yourself the sight’ – Albert Schweitzer.

And it *is* suffering: The geese and their babies beat their wings against the sides of the crates they are trapped in...and they cry and gasp for air as they are gassed. There is nothing ‘humane’ about this slaughter.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85EYtlqZmww>

We are aware this is a sensitive subject, with opinions being put forth from activists, hunters, wildlife experts and the public: but the fact of the matter is that this is an economic issue – period. Taxpayer dollars are being used to fund the killing – which is inefficient since geese will just return, prompting a habitual slaughter every year. With this unnecessary slaughter comes the underlying constant issue of brutality to beings who love their families just as humans do; who many many humans actually enjoy watching...whose viewing in fact provides a sense of peace and tranquility, and has been proven to have a positive effect on the physical and mental health of human beings.

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### CANADA GEESE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

We are proposing a multi-faceted, comprehensive approach that is completely guaranteed, cost-efficient, which will undercut the cost of the USDA's proposal and will cost **far less** than any additional proposal the Village of Mamaroneck has been provided with thus far. We are so confident of the efficiency of these programs that we are offering to donate \$500 toward the cost of implementation.

The bulk of our proposal is directed toward the use of GEESEBUSTERS, created by Robert Guadagna, who has indicated to us that he will undercut the USDA's fee of \$8600.00. Guadagna implements and carries out the work; Mamaroneck would contract directly with him..(646) 404-8434

[Geesebusters@gmail.com](mailto:Geesebusters@gmail.com)

**\*NOTE: The Geesebusters method needs to be demonstrated in person to educate fully on its use and implementation. We highly recommend Mr. Guadagna meet with the Mayor and the Board of Trustees to fully explain his method.**

#### Description

*Geesebusters has revolutionized the bird world by inventing a patented (US7,669,801 & US7,128,296 & patent pending in Canada) , most effective, humane method of scaring all nuisance birds from any size property. This is the most natural, low cost idea on the market today. In 2003 we designed an "animal scaring device" configured as a predatory bird. Using a natural-like predator, such as a three-dimensional eagle, the device will turn in a "prey seeking" circular motion. Canadian geese, seagulls and other problem birds recognize the predator as real, and immediately flee the target area. After a little conditioning, all nuisance birds will avoid the area, seeking safer grounds. What ever bird you want out, you target. It's that simple, our method exploits the bird's natural fear of an aerial predator and this inborn fear will cause the birds to leave permanently. Our "animal scaring device" is the top of the food chain in the bird world and in our opinion and other's is the silver bullet. This artificial predator can find a home in any urban area airport, park, school, golf course. You name it, and move out all your nuisance birds. This scientific and patented method overrides any bird deterrent that's out there today.*

**No other methods are needed to be used with our patented "animal scaring device".The "animal scaring device" fazes out the old way of using border collies to scare geese and other problem birds.**

**There's no liability and we guarantee immediate results.**

**Time Magazine interview, 2009: 'Got Geese? Call the Geesebusters!'**

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[http://www.time.com/time/video/player/0,32068,30959135001\\_0,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/video/player/0,32068,30959135001_0,00.html)

An article in Style Weekly Magazine begins, 'At Virginia Commonwealth University, scientists Robert Guadagna and Tarun Sinha have joined forces fo save the beleaguered geese of Canterbury Lake'.

<http://www.styleweekly.com/richmond/hero-of-all-geese-deters-birds-with-beats/Content?oid=1648096>

\*Note: These links contain videos of the Geesebusters methodology

Again, Guadagno's approach is guaranteed – with his promise to undercut the cost of the USDA; furthermore, having made the purchase of the the RayVac, Mamaroneck can now benefit from its purchase by selling its result as a local resource: There is a market for chicken and goose poop, which is highly desirable as compost material – a plus for residents *and* the environment.

Guadagno demonstrated his method at a meeting of the Scarsdale Board of Trustees on 1/22/13, which was dealing with the same issue; *After being presented with several alternatives, the Board and Mayor Flisser were very impressed with Geesebusters; they have **tabled indefinitely** their plan with the USDA, and are currently in talks with him to implement his plan in Scarsdale.*

### **REFERENCES:**

#### **GEICO Insurance**

##### **Part 1**

"Geico Insurance Company located in Woodbury, N.Y. has been over run with geese for years. We've tried chemical deterrent Windsock's, Spinning dogs cutout, etc. They all worked for a while, then the geese became used to all these concepts.I received a call from Geesebusters in the Spring of 2008. Rob explained his technique and it sounded interesting. We started a 2 week clean-out in April (nesting period). This worked out fine. We have added several clean-out packages due to the years of geese being around. Now it is August and I'm very pleased with the results. I would recommend Geesebusters to to anyone with geese over running their property."

Jeff Winser

Administrative Engineer

## **Part 2**

"Geico continued to hiring Geesebusters in 2009, as Geesebusters reduced nesting geese around the property from 18 nest down to 8 nests. A few more clean-outs were needed. We continued in 2010 with 3 nests and a few more "on calls" Geese are very stubborn creatures but Geesebusters are discouraging them from nesting by their technique and persistence. We have saved on lawn clean ups and sweeping sidewalks, reduced workman's comp, claims etc. You are always going to have a few fly onto your lawn for something to eat, but the bottom line is when they have taken over your property by 50 - 100 geese day and night to a few 2-3 stopping in the evening to nibble on the green grass and away from the building and associates, you realize what a good job Geesebusters has done."

Jeff Winser

Administrative Engineer

## **Part 3**

"In 2011 Geesebusters has reduced nesting to only 1 nest and produced 2 eggs. Geesebusters continued being aggressive with his procedures, but it is new geese we feel that are trying to get on our property. We continue to use his services less frequent due to scarce amount of new geese flying onto the property. If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to speak to me."

Jeff Winser

Administrative Engineer

## **St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School**

"We have been using Geesebuster's for about 2 years. When I first saw a video of the service, I didn't believe it would work. Being very close to the Great South Bay, we

attract a lot of geese, which were ruining our field. We had tried a range of remedies, including multiple dog services without success! When Rob came and did his original clean-out, the results were amazing. The geese flew away and stayed away. We've had a few follow-up visits and are very pleased with the results. We even were able to reduce the cost of what we had been spending on geese control, Rob stays in contact with us and really cares that his service works! I would recommend Geesebuster's to any facility that has a geese problem. It is a humane and cost-effective way to keep your field clear."

Bob Asti  
Assistant Business Manager  
St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School

### **Green-Wood Historic Cemetery**

"We would like to commend Geesebusters for the fine job and great service we have had in ridding the cemetery of geese. Green-Wood is a Victorian Cemetery established in 1838 and its 478 acres makes it the largest cemetery in the NYC area. We have been plagued by the large number of geese for the last couple of decades. Thanks to your patented system we are 100% free of Canadian geese."

Kenneth A. Taylor  
500 25th Street  
Brooklyn NY 11232  
Vice President - Operations

### **Rockville Cemetery, Inc**

"We are very please with the results from the purchase of the products sold by Geesebusters. We have tried other means to rid our premises of geese but no avail. Geesebusters actually works! Plus the service provided by Rob has been nothing short of amassing! I would and have recommend his product and services to anyone in need."

Mr. Robert Guerriero President & Treasure  
Rockville Cemetery, Inc  
Merrick Rd. & Ocean Ave  
Lynbrook, NY 11563

### **Comsewogue School District**

"It is my pleasure to recommend to you the service of Rob Guadagna and Geesebusters. Rob, his partners and his system are second to none. Rob's method is safe, effective and even entertaining if you happen to be around when he introduces his eagle to the geese and you see

them scatter. Geesebusters is great, the results we have had enjoyed speak for themselves."

Montgomery J. Granger  
290 Norwood Ave  
Port Jefferson Station New Your, 11770  
District Administrator for Operations

## **Plainedge Public Schools**

"Geesebusters has been servicing the Plainedge Public School District and we no longer have problems with geese on our fields. The geese are whistle trained. If a pair happen to land we just blow the whistle and they fly away. This does not happen often. It is a very unique service that works better then others I have tried. In my opinion it is the best service of its kind."

Mario Graziano  
241 Wyngate Drive  
N. Massapequa NY 11758  
Supervisor of Operations

## **F & W Schmitt Brothers Farm**

"Thanks to Rob and Geesebusters he's saved my corn field and other crops from geese"  
Ferdie Schmitt  
F & H Schmitt Brothers Farm  
26 Pinelawn Road  
Melville, N.Y. 11747

## **Meyer's Plant & Produce Farms**

"I can't say enough about Geesebusters, when they say they will fix the problem they fix the problem period. We tried so many way ourselves but, they were only short term. Geesebusters came in quietly and left quietly with no damage. They don't use any dogs or equipment that makes any loud noise, it's like they aren't even there. Geesebusters helped us out in the height of our growing season here at the farm. When you have the largest track of land in the town that grows corn the geese seem to find it very fast. If Geesebusters worked for me and the ¼ million ears of sweet corn, I think that they'll work for anybody."

Pete Meyer  
Farm Manager  
Meyer's Plant & Product Farms  
Woodbury, L.I. N.Y.

## ANCILLARY METHODS

We are also proposing a number of ancillary methods which are extremely cost-effective, simple, outside-the-box and effective, and may or may not be utilized with the Geesebusters method:

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- The animal advocacy organization IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS (IDA), is offering a year of *free geese birth control* to any venue that requests it;

- In addition to the use of an inexpensive item called Birdgone, which is applied to the grass, is completely non-toxic but repels geese via a scent unperceived by humans, noted longtime wildlife expert Paula Young, who has worked with government officials in the Westchester area, strongly urges the use of grape Kool-aid; “Typically a successful repellent, grape Kool Aid contains methyl anthranilate, the name of the artificial flavoring used in grape bubble gum, grape popsicles, and grape Kool-Aid.

It does not harm the geese, but they find it repulsive,’ Young states. ‘Method of application - the powder is mixed with water and applied to the grass through a dispenser usually used for fertilizers. Applied weekly, it works very very well. Purchased in bulk, as Kool-Aid, it is not expensive. It works. And since the village has park workers involved with care of the greens, there should be very little extra cost. ”

- Our organization will work with volunteers, again saving residents of Village of Mamaroneck money and time, to help implement an egg oiling program, which has been successful in many communities; (this program may not even be necessary with the use of Geesebusters). This causes the egg to no longer be viable; this method additionally has the benefit of causing the geese to avoid nesting on the treated egg. This program has been successfully implemented in such areas as Ridgewood and Essex County, N.J., Vancouver, Canada, Oyster Bay, L.I., Fairfax County, VA and Montgomery County, Maryland.

## WESTCHESTER WILDLIFE MGMT AND ADVOCACY SERVICES VS. USDA CONTRACT SERVICES

The USDA approach has several flaws as compared to the services provided under this proposal by Westchester Wildlife Mgmt and Advocacy Services:

- 1) It doesn’t train geese to avoid Village parks, as does Geesebusters;
- 2) It doesn’t alter geese behavior, as Geesebusters does;

- 3) It allows geese to continue to nest on eggs after they have been laid;

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- 4) It allows the geese to use the park all spring and summer;
- 5) It is a cruel, repulsive plan which teaches Mamaroneck children that if a situation arises, the answer is to kill it;
- 6) It is a wasteful expenditure wherein geese still return to the area, *And* is more costly than Geesebusters

### DONATIONS OF FLESH TO THE POOR

At issue is also the questionable 'donation' of goose flesh to the poor. This has been strongly denounced by the Executive Director of the Coalition for the Homeless, Mary Brosnahan, who is quoted as saying,

"The Coalition objects, in the strongest possible terms, to the plans by officials to slaughter hundreds of New York City's Canada Geese, and to the use of homeless New Yorkers to achieve that end. Apart from the total lack of ethics about needless slaughter of our wildlife, the plan to feed homeless people the potentially tainted carcasses of these birds through a local soup kitchen or food bank sets a dangerous double standard in which poor men, women and children will eat unregulated and insufficiently inspected flesh."

The local food banks are in a precarious position regarding the refusal of such questionable 'donations' – but the fact is this flesh comes with a large WARNING LABEL on it, admonishing 'the poor' to not eat it more than once a month! The food banks HAVE to 'graciously' accept the flesh or they'd be considered ungrateful.

### LITERATURE CITED:

Dangers of feeding goose flesh to the poor:

<http://reviewpress.lohudblogs.com/2013/01/17/westchester-food-bank-would-welcome-meat-from-scarsdales-geese/>

' Some activists have questioned the safety of the meat of the wild birds, whose diet could include vegetation treated by pesticides, but the Food Bank's Wilcox said it was not a concern since each family only received enough for one meal. "They're obviously not raised on a farm in a controlled

environment, so there is a rather daunting label on the meat when it arrives. What it says is that you should only have a serving once a month," she said.'

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Benefits of watching and interacting with wildlife on human health:  
<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/Benefits-Bird-Watching-Your-Family>

'Watching birds can often be a spark that gets kids interested in nature and the outdoors. More and more research is revealing the real health benefits to kids spending more time in the outdoors.'

<http://www.birdzilla.com/attracting-birds.html>

'You want to **teach** your **children** to treat **animals kindly** because that will, in turn, **teach** them to be kind to any being that is weaker than they are.'

<http://voices.yahoo.com/the-importance-teaching-children-kind-5741100.html>

### IN CONCLUSION

The proposal we've outlined represents a genuine win-win for all parties:

- The birds are humanely disbursed, leaving tidier fields that also benefit from the purchase and *use* of the Ray Vac machine in Mamaroneck;
- Mamaroneck residents save money and get to see their tax dollars being used in a prudent, truly economical fashion;
- Mamaroneck residents do not have to face the controversy surrounding what will be a heartbreaking, needless killing of wildlife;
- Mamaroneck will be written about in the press and by the media as an innovative, decent village with a local government that is using clever, thrifty, frugal methods for the benefit and good of all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kiley Blackman  
March 7, 2013

