



**2021/2022**  
**BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE**  
**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF EAST HILLS**

by  
Michael R. Koblenz, Mayor

**As the Mayor and Chief Budget Officer of East Hills**, I am proud to announce that for an **unprecedented eleventh year in a row, the budget in East Hills contains a zero tax increase** for our residents. While it remains unconfirmed that eleven years sets a more widespread record at the County level, or otherwise, the continued passage of our budget without tax increases is an accomplishment, and I thank our Board and our executive staff as well.

With the advent of Coronavirus, we continue to face many new and significant challenges. However, even with the obstacles we face, the Village is projected to maintain approximately \$3 million surplus at the close of the fiscal year.

As a result of the economy still flagging due to COVID, we expect reduced revenues which range from defaults in paying taxes to reduced building fees, less state aid, to reduced revenue in the Village Justice Court. We are, however, hopeful that the economy will rebound by end of 2021. Nevertheless, through this budget we will be prepared for status quo in revenues. Our costs will be contained because we have further eliminated and minimized all unnecessary costs. We have previously replaced most of our fleet of trucks and vehicles. We also save an estimate \$150,000 by not having an additional Village Administrator and by managing the Village directly by myself and the Board.

We are proud that we continued to earn one of Moody's highest bond ratings, Aa1, of any village our size. We are also invigorated that this past year we once again received one of the finest evaluations of any village on the financial stress tests given by the NYS Comptroller. Our housing prices are booming, and **East Hills continues to be one of the most sought after communities on Long Island.**

I thank my fellow Board Members, Deputy Mayor Manny Zuckerman, and Trustees Clara Pomerantz, Brian Meyerson and Stacey Siegel for their support. I further thank the Board for their consideration of this budget and other issues that confront the Village, such as airplane noise, security and pollution, and code revisions. I want to express my gratitude to our Village Attorney, Bill Burton, Village Justice Howard Jaslow, Village Clerk Donna Gooch, and all Department Heads.

**It should be stressed that Village taxes generally amount to only 16-17% of all taxes paid by our residents.** Yet, even with our rather meager portion of all taxes paid, we shoulder the entire costs of sanitation, snow removal, paving our roads, security, the pool, the park, administration for our programs and fire protection.

**This Budget Ensures the Finest Services and Facilities will be continued in East Hills, as Allowed by COVID Regulation and Prudent Action:**

**Best Services** – for sanitation, security, road re-pavement, snow removal, beautification, tree trimming and replacement, administration of the Justice Court for traffic and code violations, creation of new legislation on zoning, building and administration of our village services, laws, regulations and services.

**Best Facilities** – for the fitness center, tennis facilities, basketball courts, community lounge, swimming pool, Park Grille, Snow Mountain, nature trails, woods, Dog Park, walking, jogging and biking paths, and sports playgrounds. The \$70,000,000 asset the Village owns with the Park, and the facilities will be preserved and properly maintained.

**The Budget Helps Provide Excellent Village Events and Programs, As Allowed by Regulation and Concerns Over COVID:**

**Spectacular Village-wide Events** – We will enthusiastically support, subject to COVID regulations, the Mayor's Trophy Softball Tournament, Baseball for Roslyn Little League and Challengers, Albertson Soccer League Challengers, Men's Softball League, Women's Softball, Shooting Stars Basketball, Fireworks on the Fourth of July, Concerts if possible, and the Blood Drive.

**Outstanding Children's Programs** – The Village sponsors the Kids in the Park programs. The calendar of events includes various performances, events, competitions and celebrations. These functions are exciting and add vitality to the community. Once again, these programs can be reinstated if deemed viable due to the Coronavirus Crisis.

**Unsurpassed Seniors Program** – The Village sponsors the Seniors Activities Committee, which features trips to museums, parks, historical homes and landmarks, shows, and other spectacular events. A comprehensive newsletter details the extensive activities monthly. These programs are currently curtailed due to the Coronavirus Crisis.

**New Residents' Days** - We will once again welcome our new residents through brunches in their honor. At the brunches, we provide information, facts and an introduction to our Village. We distribute information on the Village's extraordinary facilities, programs, and services and explain the regulations and requirements in the Village. This program is held a few times a year will be continued when permitted and advised in light of the Coronavirus Crisis.

### **The Budget Ensures Our Residents are Informed of News:**

**Up to the Minute Village News and Exceptionally Dynamic Website** – Emails, text messages, and publications include the one-of-a-kind East Hills Calendar, the East Hills Website, electronic newsletters, and printed bulletins.

**Best News Updates** - We continued to send regular e-mails during weather emergencies by having daily meetings and preparing and writing updates. The newsletters that are prepared are called “Messages from the Mayor,” and have proven to be particularly beneficial during the Coronavirus Crisis.

### **The Budget Continues to Minimize Paid Staff by Utilizing Dedicated Volunteers as follows:**

The Budget is maintained in strong measure, because the Village is fortunate to have 150 concerned residents serving on various committees. We will continue to enlist the finest talented residents to volunteer their time and effort.

Our boards include the Board of Zoning and Appeals, the Planning Board, the citizens Architectural Review Board, the Seniors Activities Committee, Tennis Committee, Kids in the Park Committee, the Mayor's Trophy Tournament Committee, Park Rules Review Committee, Security Committee, and several other committees which can be found on the Village website.

### **The Budget Protects and Safeguards the HEALTH AND SAFETY of Our Residents:**

Safety remains our number one priority and the budget provides the means to achieve these important objectives. For the past couple of years the only crimes have been car break-ins when residents have not locked their car doors and left their keys or key fobs in their vehicles. **Our community is safer than ever.** These protections are particularly important during the Coronavirus Crisis when families are home and residents need to be protected.

Our new Security Entrance Cameras will be fully functional within months.

### **The Annual Budget includes Repaving our Roads:**

We continue to have a very comprehensive road re-pavement project. This program is necessary to respond to the extreme weather we now face in the Northeast.

### **The Budget Ensure Open and Transparent Government:**

We continue to be accessible to our residents through our unique "Instant Access Program." With Village Hall closed due to the Coronavirus, “Meetings with the Mayor,” which may be requested on the homepage of our website, may be conducted via Zoom. We schedule meetings with the Mayor on weekends to give added open access with face-to-face meetings with the

Mayor to discuss issues, ideas, and suggestions. We also publish a calendar on the front page of our website listing all Village dates and events.

### **The Budget Provides for the Funds Necessary to Operate and Run the Justice Court System:**

A significant portion of the funds raised from fines and penalties are added to the budget and offset other costs and expenses. My thanks to Village Justice Howard Jaslow, our Prosecutors and Village Court Clerk.

### **The Budget Continues to Protect the Enviably Livable Lifestyle in East Hills:**

The Village's Code Enforcers ensure the lifestyle. Whether it is finding and stopping construction after hours, excessive noise, an absence of necessary permits, or improper protections at work sites, the Code Enforcers are vigilantly enforcing our local laws.

**Continuing to Fully Fund the Volunteer Firefighters** - The Village budget provides for a contract in excess of \$1,000,000 with the Roslyn Fire Companies for firefighting, equipment, trucks, and retirement fund for the volunteer firefighters together with Worker's Compensation.

**Fostering Beautification** - Through our Department of Public Works, we will continue to maintain and improve all public areas in the Village and keep them clean. We will continue to plant flowers, trees, and bushes. Falling trees on roads are extremely dangerous and present potential liabilities for our village. We will continue to examine trees on our right of way to protect motorists and pedestrians.

**Convenience by Offering Passport Services** – When prudent, our Village staff will continue to provide services for passport applications. It is a convenience for our residents.

### **The Budget Continues to Support and Sponsor Environmental Programs, As COVID Allows, as follows:**

**“Green Day”** - We continue to encourage recycling, buying fuel-efficient vehicles, separating residents' disposable items, and collecting these disposables.

**Continue the Special Pick-up Program** - We are continuing the one-time special pick-up for free in our Village. The program allows our residents, once during several months of the year, to discard their unnecessary items.

**Continue to Comply with Federally Mandated Storm Water Requirements** - Our Village participates and complies with all Federal mandates on runoff and spill programs. We will continue to institute all added measures necessary to support this important effort.

## **Conclusions and Strong Budgetary Projections for the Upcoming Budgetary Year:**

With our fiscal condition proven strong by the State's Stress Tests and Moody's highest ratings, we will once again keep the Village of East Hills on the strongest fiscal footing. At the same time, we will preserve the finest services, programs, events and facilities for East Hills.

Through this budget and the close cooperation of the Board, we have implemented - for the **eleventh year** in a row - a zero increase in taxes. It is an accomplishment we are proud of achieving. This is a challenge that was met head-on, even in a climate of significantly raising health care costs, added COVID protection costs, unfunded mandates like cleaning the sidewalks on Glen Cove Road, added fire and police protection costs, and increased compensation for employees.

We, therefore, are proud to present this 2021/2022 Budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. R. Koblenz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MICHAEL R. KOBLENZ  
Mayor