

**CITY OF RYE  
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Marcus Serrano, City Manager

SUBJECT: Enclosures - Council Packet

DATE: October 6, 2017

Enclosed with this memorandum are the following items:

- 10-1 Notice regarding a Rye City School District Board of Education Meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room.
- 10-2 Legal Department Update from the Corporation Counsel dated October 6, 2017.
- 10-3 Letter from Dan Ahouse, Altice Area Director of Government Affairs, regarding upcoming price adjustments to select video products for certain residential customers.
- 10-4 Meeting notice for the week of October 10, 2017 is available on the City website [www.ryeny.gov](http://www.ryeny.gov) under Calendar.



## **The Rye City School District**

*411 Theodore Fremd Avenue, Suite 100S*

*Rye, New York 10580*

*Tel: (914) 967-6100 Ext. 6278 Fax: (914) 967-6957*

*Elaine Cuglietto*

*District Clerk*

*Cuglietto.elaine@ryeschools.org*

October 3, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **October 10, 2017 Board of Education Meeting**

The Rye City School District Board of Education will meet Tuesday, October 10, 2017 beginning at 8:00 PM in the Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room.

On the agenda are fiscal, special education, personnel and business items that ordinarily come before the Board. In addition, there will be a Presentation on Active Learning and a Presentation of the 2016/17 External Audit prepared by O'Connor Davies.

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting of the Board and to speak at designated times.

Prior to the meeting, members of The Rye City School District Board of Education and Central Office Administrators will be touring Osborn Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.

After completion of the tour, beginning at approximately 7:30 p.m. the Board will meet in Executive Session at Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law, review of current litigation and litigation strategy.

**CITY OF RYE  
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Honorable Mayor and Rye City Council  
FROM: Kristen K. Wilson, Corporation Counsel  
SUBJECT: Litigation Update  
DATE: September 29, 2017

**CLAIMS**

No new claims were filed this week.

**TAX CERTIORARI**

**THE TOWN OF RYE AND THE RYE TOWN PARK COMMISSION v. THE ASSESSOR and Board of Assessment Review of the CITY OF RYE**

The Appellate Division, Second Department, handed down a Decision and Order reversing the lower court and granting the City's cross-motion for summary judgement. Notice of Entry was served on July 28, 2016. The Decision and Order confirms the City's ability to tax that portion of Rye Town Park which is occupied by Seaside Johnnies. On September 6, 2016, the City was served with a Motion for Leave to Appeal to the Court of Appeals by both the Town of Rye and the Rye Town Park Commission. The City filed its opposition papers on September 16, 2016. The Second Department has denied the Motion for Leave.

**181 NEW ENGLAND SEAFOOD CORP. v. NOREEN WHITTY, et al**

I appeared at a court conference with Judge Tolbert and his law clerk on April 21, 2015. Motions for summary judgment are still pending.

**LITIGATION**

**VENUS IRIZARRY V. CITY OF RYE, JOHN COUCH, ELIZABETH FORSTMANN, PEACHWAVE, ABC CORPORATION AND ABC PARTNERSHIP**

Plaintiff filed a summons and verified complaint naming the City of Rye as one of the defendants. Plaintiff allegedly fell outside of Peachwave and sustained damages while walking on or near the parking lot and sidewalk on March 17, 2017. Plaintiff is seeking damages for her injuries.

**CROWN CASTLE v. CITY OF RYE, ET AL.**

Crown Castle filed a summons and complaint in the Southern District of New York against the City of Rye and the City Council alleging various causes of action under the Telecommunications Act and breach of contract. On Friday May, 12, 2017, Plaintiffs moved by Order to Show Cause for a Temporary Restraining Order and preliminary injunction. A TRO was granted preserving the status quo until a decision on the motion for a preliminary injunction is decided. On June 18, 2017, Plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction was fully submitted. On June 23, 2017, the City's motion to dismiss was fully submitted. A settlement conference was held with

Magistrate Davison on July 18, 2017. The case did not settle. Plaintiff served a letter motion requesting that discovery proceed while the motions are pending. On September 15, the City opposed the motion and on September 19, 2017, the Judge denied Plaintiff's motion and indicated that discovery is stayed until the pending motions are decided.

CITY OF RYE, ET AL. v. COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, ET AL.

The Petitioners filed a Notice of Appeal on April 24, 2017 with the Appellate Division, Second Department. Petitioners have six (6) months to perfect their appeal.

JOHN LYONS, ET AL. v. CITY OF RYE

Plaintiffs, three Rye Golf Club couples, filed and served a summons and complaint in Westchester County Supreme Court alleging the City of Rye breached the contract (membership agreement for 2015) when the golf club had to close portions of the course as a result of damage to the golf greens. Plaintiffs are seeking full reimbursement of their 2015 comprehensive non-resident membership dues, in addition to other damages. An answer with affirmative defenses was filed and served. A preliminary conference was held on April 25, 2017 and a discovery schedule was established. A compliance conference was held last week and document demands were served on the City.

CITY OF RYE v. TRAVELERS

The City of Rye filed and served a summons and complaint in Westchester County Supreme Court against Travelers Insurance Company as a result of a breach of contract when Travelers failed to compensate the City under the terms of the Insurance Policy. The City submitted a claim to Travelers for damage sustained to the roofs on the buildings at Rye Golf Club. The damage was sustained as a result of snow, ice and ice damming damage during the winter months in 2014 and beginning of 2015. The City is seeking compensatory damages in excess of \$1 Million, among other damages. Defendant filed a Notice of Removal to the United States District Court, Southern District of New York based on diversity of citizenship and the amount in controversy exceeding \$75,000. Travelers filed an answer with affirmative defenses. Counsel appeared at a case management conference on May 12, 2017. City responded to Defendant's interrogatories. Discovery is on-going.

STANISLAW SZEWCZYK v. CITY OF RYE

Plaintiff filed and served a summons and complaint seeking damages for injuries sustained as a result of a fall. Plaintiff slipped and fell on ice in the parking lot area bordered by Purchase Street and School Street. The matter was commenced in Supreme Court, Westchester County. A Notice of Claim was previously filed and a 50 H hearing has taken place. An answer with affirmative defenses was filed and a preliminary conference was held on June 1, 2017 and a discovery schedule was agreed upon.

WILTON VALDEZ v. CITY OF RYE, RYE FIRE DEPARTMENT and MILTON FIREHOUSE

Plaintiff filed suit in Westchester County Supreme Court seeking damages he sustained while working at the Milton Firehouse. Plaintiff was injured when he fell off of a ladder while he was repairing a garage bay door. Plaintiff alleges that the ladder that he borrowed from the Milton Firehouse was defective and that such defect caused him to fall. Plaintiff commenced this action under the New York Labor Law Sections 200, 240, and 241(6). An Answer with Affirmative Defenses has been filed.

DeBORBA v. CITY OF RYE

Plaintiffs commenced suit against the City of Rye alleging a serious injury when Luis DeBorba tripped and fell on a sidewalk abutting 2 School Street, Rye, New York. The Summons/Complaint has been forwarded to our insurance carrier for a determination. A preliminary conference was held on January 18, 2017 and a discovery schedule was agreed upon by all parties. On August 22, 2017, I attended a compliance conference. Plaintiff must send out medical authorizations by this Friday, August 25, 2017. Depositions are to take place in September and October.

BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE IVES AT RYE v. CITY OF RYE

The City has served its Answer with Affirmative Defenses.

GORDON and MARIA HARGRAVES v. CITY OF RYE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, WALTER & MARGARET NELSON, and ROBERT TALT

Judge Cacace dismissed Petitioners' Petition finding that the Respondent ZBA acted reasonably, properly considered the statutory criteria that must be met in order for a variance to be granted and relied on substantial evidence in the record. Notice of Entry was served on October 21, 2015. Petitioners filed a Notice of Appeal. Petitioners requested an additional one-month enlargement of time to perfect their appeal. Petitioners perfected their appeal and served respondents with the record on appeal and appellate brief. Respondents filed their opposition brief on September 19, 2016. The Appeal is fully submitted. We are still waiting for a date for oral argument.

NOTICE OF DANGEROUS CONDITION

The City received a copy of a "Notice of Dangerous Condition" regarding any future bow and arrow or other permitted deer hunting.

BALLANTONI v. CITY OF RYE, CONSOLIDATED EDISON, and PERSICO CONTRACTING AND TRUCKING, INC.

Plaintiffs served the City of Rye, Consolidated Edison and Persico Contracting with a Summons and Verified Complaint alleging that the City was negligent in performing construction work in and around 81 High Street and created a dangerous condition. Plaintiff fell and sustained injuries. Depositions have been completed.

LINDA COLLINS v. CITY OF RYE and CONSOLIDATED EDISON

Plaintiff served the City of Rye and Consolidated Edison with a Summons and Complaint alleging personal injuries when she fell crossing the street in the area of Purchase Street and Smith Street on July 26, 2014. The matter is venued in Westchester County Supreme Court. A

compliance conference was held in May and a discovery schedule was established. Depositions have been completed.

AGUIRRE and SANCHEZ v. COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, ET AL.

Plaintiffs commenced a federal lawsuit in the Eastern District of New York alleging violations of their civil rights under the Constitutions of the United States and New York State. Plaintiffs were arrested in Queens and subsequently indicted in Westchester County Supreme Court for Assault in the Second Degree and Robbery in the Second Degree. On November 26, 2012, Westchester County Court Judge Hubert issued a decision and order dismissing the indictment. On October 25, 2016, a revised discovery schedule was set and Plaintiffs' counsel had until November 2, 2016 to perfect service and until November 10 to serve responses to Plaintiffs' discovery demands. On November 8, 2016, Judge Ross rendered an Opinion and Order granting, in part, and denying, in part, the Defendants' motion to dismiss. Plaintiffs' claims against all of the unidentified John Does and against County Sgt. Hess are dismissed with prejudice. In addition, Plaintiffs' "Deprivation of Civil Rights" and "monell" causes of action are dismissed with prejudice as to all Defendants. Plaintiffs' false arrest claim against Chittenden is dismissed with prejudice but remains as to County Officers Lopez and Mohl. Also, Plaintiff Aguirre's claims for malicious prosecution and fair trial claims remain as to all three (Chittenden, Lopez, and Mohl). Judge Scanlon signed an amended Order to allow the New York State Department of Corrections more time to transfer Plaintiff Aguirre to Sing Sing Correctional Facility. The deposition of Melissa Sanchez took place on January 24, 2017. The deposition of Christian Aguirre took place on February 13, 2017 at Sing Sing Correctional Institute. The depositions of non-parties will take place over the next two to three weeks. A status conference was held on March 24, 2017 and discovery deadlines were amended. A stipulation of dismissal was filed and "so ordered" by the Judge and the releases have been signed.

CONNECTICUT FUND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT D/B/A SAVE THE SOUND v. WESTCHESTER COUNTY, ET AL.

Save the Sound commenced a federal action alleging violations of the Clean Water Act in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York against the County of Westchester, the City of Rye, and numerous other municipalities. Save the Sound is alleging violations of the Clean Water Act for exceeding effluent limits under the City's SPDES permit and in violation of its MS4 permit. I submitted this matter to the City's insurance carrier for a coverage determination. Save the Sound has consented to an additional ninety day (90) adjournment in order to allow the defendants' time to answer or otherwise submit a request for permission to file a motion to dismiss. Judge Seibel has "so ordered" the new schedule. Defendants participated in an initial settlement meeting on February 25, 2016 and a subsequent settlement conference on March 17, 2016.

There have been numerous Defendants-only strategy meetings and also two settlement meetings with all parties. On Wednesday, April 20, all parties appeared in front of the Honorable Cathy Seibel in the Southern District of New York for a formal status conference and update. At the conference, the parties requested more time to conduct system wide studies regarding the condition of the infrastructure. The enlargement of time would delay the requirement for defendants to answer. The Judge agreed to this approach and was pleased that the parties appeared to be working together in a productive fashion. Plaintiffs submitted the first, second, third **and fourth** quarterly

status reports to the Judge. **The City's SSES has been prepared and submitted for review by DEC.**

JEANETTE v. VERILLE

On December 3, 2015, Judge Mary Smith rendered a decision vacating the arbitrator's decision in its entirety and found that Arbitrator Barone committed misconduct pursuant to CPLR 7511. Plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal.

GERRITY v. CITY OF RYE

Christine Gerrity commenced a lawsuit against the City for injuries she sustained when she tripped while walking down the "handicapped" sidewalk ramp outside of 76 Purchase Street when there was on-going construction work on the sidewalks. Plaintiff alleges that on November 4, 2014 was performing work and left the area of the sidewalk in an unsafe and dangerous condition. This matter has been discontinued against the City and a Stipulation of Discontinuance has been filed.

ANDERSON v. CITY OF RYE, ET AL.

Melissa Anderson filed a summons and complaint against the City of Rye, the Rye Neck Union Free School District and the Village of Mamaroneck seeking damages for personal injuries sustained while on the playground at Rye Neck Middle School. The City's insurance carrier has been notified and denied defense and indemnification since this property is not owned by the City and the City does not maintain or operate the playground equipment. During the week of May 9, 2016, I submitted an affirmation establishing ownership and maintenance of the playground property.

**RYE CITY COURT**

Routine vehicle and traffic law calendar with no unusual dispositions. **Rye City Court is now holding a morning and afternoon vehicle and traffic law calendar on Thursdays.**

People v. Hoffman –

City served Defendant with two Vehicle and Traffic Law summonses via mail after an off-duty police officer observed errant driving behavior. Defendant, after appearing in person and then through retained counsel, moved to dismiss for failure to properly serve Defendant. Defendant's motion was denied and the next appearance date is on October 12, 2017.

**People v. 131-151 Purchase Street**

As previously reported, **the City issued violations to the property owner and manager of 131-151 Purchase Street related to the fire that occurred earlier this month. The violations concerned performing work without an electrical permit. Defendant appeared by counsel and the matter was conferenced. The next court date is October 12.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Kristen K. Wilson*

Kristen K. Wilson  
Corporation Counsel

KKW/kkw



October 02, 2017

Hon. Joseph Sack, Mayor  
City of Rye  
1051 Boston Post Road  
Rye, NY 10580

Dear Mayor Sack:

Altice USA, Inc. (“Altice” or “the Company”) hereby notifies the Commission that, starting November 1, 2017, in all Hudson Valley systems, there will be price adjustments to select video products for certain residential customers. These adjustments reflect the rising cost of programming, particularly the escalating fees charged by sports networks and broadcasters, and are part of an initiative to align pricing among existing and new customers. Optimum prices are competitive, and Altice continues to offer a wide array of products to meet consumer needs. Specific changes are noted below.

- Broadcast TV Surcharge: New Broadcast Basic residential customers currently pay a \$3.99 “Broadcast TV Surcharge” to partially offset the high costs that broadcasters charge Altice to carry their programming. Starting November 1, existing Basic customers will begin paying this fee as well.
- Basic Tier: The current new customer price for basic tier is \$19.99/month. As part of a gradual transition to align basic tier rates across the Altice footprint, the price of the basic tier in the Hudson Valley systems will increase as follows;
  - \$10.95, to \$13.95
  - \$11.95, to \$14.95
  - \$12.95, to \$16.95
  - \$13.95, to \$17.95
  - \$14.95, to \$17.95
  - \$16.95, to \$19.99
  - \$17.95, to \$19.99
- Sports Surcharge: The cost that programmers charge Altice to carry sports content on the Optimum channel lineups continues to increase. To partially cover these costs, the Sports Surcharge paid by all subscribers of the Optimum Value or higher tiers will increase to \$6.97 per month, from either \$5.97 or \$4.97, depending on when the customer subscribed to Optimum. No basic tier customer is affected by the Sports Surcharge.

Additionally, effective Wednesday, October 25, 2017, WNYJ-TV terminated broadcast operations as a result of relinquishing the station's license as part of the FCC's Incentive Auction. As a result, Optimum is no longer required to retransmit the broadcast signals of WNYJ and WNYJ HD (channels 66/698).

Customers are being notified 30 days in advance of these changes through bill messages or inserts. In addition, rate information will be available on our website at [www.optimum.net](http://www.optimum.net).

These changes will be implemented on all Altice USA systems in New York State including the following corporations:

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 914-378-4533 or by email at [dan.ahouse@alticeusa.com](mailto:dan.ahouse@alticeusa.com).

Sincerely,



Dan Ahouse  
Area Director, Government Affairs