



December 2, 2021

To: Paxton J. Louis, Board Chairman  
Benjamin Mills, Executive Vice-Board Chair  
Gregg Dick, Council Commissioner  
Richard Stockton, Scout Executive  
Members of the Greater Hudson Valley Council Board

Re: Saving and preserving Camp Bullowa

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the GHVC Board:

As elected community leaders in Rockland County, the fate of Camp Bullowa is of great concern. Thousands of our constituents have contacted us and our various offices to communicate their concern over the anticipated sale of Camp Bullowa and the significant and negative effect it will have upon the Scouting program in Rockland County.

It is well known that Camp Bullowa became a reality in 1946 when two ladies purchased the land and donated it to the Rockland County Council for the creation of a Scout camp to serve Scouts in Rockland County and adjoining areas. In making the donation, Grace A.M. Bullowa and Addison S. Boyce stated that it was in memory of their beloved mother, Emilie M. Bullowa. The Bullowa sisters' benevolence continued in 1949 with the foresight to donate a portfolio of securities valuing approximately \$104,000.00 to be placed in a trust fund to provide for the care and maintenance of the camp for perpetuity. Both gifts were considered very generous for the time. The "Bullowa Trust" provided the funds required to serve its designated purpose through cautious investment by a succession of trustees since its inception and is now valued between 3 and 4 million dollars.

Camp Bullowa should now be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> year and be recognized for providing an exceptional outdoor program to hundreds of thousands of Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, Venturers and Explorers. Instead, rumors and speculation revolve around its purported sale and ultimate demise. Listing the property for sale with Cushman and Wakefield intensified the fear of our citizens that Camp Bullowa would soon be a memory. GHVC's statements to the press this Summer furthered this fear when you stated that you hoped to retain at least one of your

three listed camp properties. We are not aware of any statement from your Officers or Board setting forth that Camp Bullowa would not be sold.

This letter is to unequivocally inform each of you that as elected leaders in a county of over 325,000 people, we oppose the sale of Camp Bullowa. We all believe that the sale of Camp Bullowa will lead to the decline of the Scouting program in Rockland which will certainly have a negative effect on our community for generations to come. Each of us have enjoyed seeing Scouting alive and vibrant in Rockland County including award presentations, Blue and Gold dinners, Eagle Scout projects and flag honor guards at events and parades. Scouting also provides countless hours of community service performed by your program's young people who do not seek recognition as they enrich our communities. We are always impressed by these young people who strive to live by Scouting's ideals and principles. This cannot end. The loss of Camp Bullowa will damage the delivery of the Scouting program. Current youth and those in the future will suffer. We further note that Camp Bullowa has also been used by the YMCA and ARC of Rockland to benefit their members.

It is critical to mention that Camp Bullowa has enjoyed significant and steadfast support from the local community. This moment provides us with the opportunity to renew old partnerships and develop new ones with both public and private entities to ensure the long-term vitality and fiscal sustainability of the camp. As elected officials, we are certainly open to those conversations.

We all understand that this is a critical time for Scouting with challenges and demands which may not all be within your control. However, each of you is entrusted with protecting the assets that best deliver the outdoor program to the membership that you serve: our precious youth. Each of you has the obligation and the power to speak up and vote to protect Camp Bullowa, a time tested and highly successful property which has delivered your outdoor program for over 75 years and can continue to enrich and train hundreds of thousands more people in Rockland County and the surrounding area into the future.

It has been communicated by the GHVC that they "will look at every option and will vote on the solution that will pay our debt and point us all towards the brightest solution." As you look at options to satisfy GHVC's purported \$6.3 million obligation to the national settlement of abuse claims we ask that you truly consider every option. Options should first include using GVHC's liquid assets, which can be replenished. Real property of this size in Rockland County can never be replaced. Respectfully, selling Camp Bullowa should be the absolute last option. Again, we are committed to assisting in reasonable and practical efforts to raise funds to support Scouting in Rockland County and the camp itself.

Please contact any one of us to discuss the important issues of Camp Bullowa. Saving and preserving Camp Bullowa is the responsibility and obligation of everyone.

Respectfully,

**County Executive Ed Day**

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