

**GREGORY D. STOREY
318 PERSHING AVENUE
ROSELLE PARK, NJ 07204**

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

August 2, 2016

The Hon. Carl Hokanson
Mayor of Roselle Park
Borough Hall
110 East Westfield Avenue
Roselle Park, NJ 07204

Dear Mayor Hokanson:

In reference to our telephone conversation yesterday afternoon, please be advised that, contrary to what you told me, the Veterans Park Memorial Library Board of Trustees has not authorized the religious veterans memorial that you had installed in front of the library. The board's minutes show no such authorization, or even that the subject was brought up at a board meeting. As a Roselle Park resident and taxpayer, I respectfully request that you have the memorial removed from the library grounds as rapidly as possible.

While I applaud your clear desire to honor the service, bravery and sacrifice of veterans – to whom we all owe a profound debt – your memorial singles out veterans of the Christian faith with the prominent use of a cross. It ignores veterans of all other religions and those of no religion. While this may be acceptable in a memorial placed on church or other private grounds, it is unacceptable in memorials placed on public property. It singles out one religion and amounts to an unconstitutional government endorsement of religion.

In our conversation yesterday, you told me that you bought the memorial after you were informed that the Library Board had authorized it. You said you had been informed of this authorization through "word of mouth." I understand that the memorial was installed late last week. If it was installed by Borough employees, that only compounds the situation.

I believe the people of Roselle Park support all veterans. But installing on public property a veterans memorial that singles out one religion is not the way for the Borough to show its respect for all veterans.

Please have the memorial removed from the Library grounds as rapidly as possible.

Very truly yours,

Gregory D. Storey