



*White
Plains
Historical
Society*

August 22, 2015

Hon. Jacob J. Lew
Secretary, United States Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

RE: Redesign of the \$10 Note

Dear Secretary Lew:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and members of the White Plains Historical Society, I write to express our opposition to the proposal by the Department of the Treasury to remove Alexander Hamilton's likeness from all or some \$10 notes.

While it goes without saying that Hamilton is respected among the Founders for his advocacy of the United State Constitution and the creation of the Department of the Treasury, he holds a special place in the hearts of the people of White Plains as one of the heroes of the Battle of White Plains. On October 28, 1776, General Washington's army, which had been in retreat after a disastrous defeat at the Battle of Long Island, turned to face the British from the hills of White Plains. 2,000 American troops stationed on Chatterton Hill were joined by a small battery of artillery commanded by Captain Hamilton (who had recently proven his mettle to Washington the previous month by successfully commanding artillery at the Battle of Harlem Heights). After withstanding a British artillery barrage, and repelling several direct assaults, the Americans were eventually outflanked and overwhelmed, but the action resulted in 300-500 casualties for the enemy, and discouraged the British from pursuing Washington further. The bravery and defiance of Hamilton and his fellow soldiers in the face of a superior enemy at White Plains allowed the Americans to regroup for later victories at Trenton and Princeton. Edmund F. Ward's painting "Hamilton at the Cannon" is well known locally and among the philatelic community, but it is Hamilton's image on the \$10 note that is the most visible tribute of grateful nation to a man willing to sacrifice his life for the creation of this country and its strongest institutions.

It is for this reason that the White Plains Historical Society urges the Department of the Treasury to not remove Alexander Hamilton's image from any of the \$10 bills to be placed into future circulation, and to consider its other options in the effort to make United States currency more inclusive.

Sincerely,

Robert Hoch
President, White Plains Historical Society