

Roxanne Maher

From: Naomi Rodriguez
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2022 4:28 PM
To: Jacob Hurt
Cc: Roxanne Maher
Subject: Re: Ledyard RTC FB page Comments

Good Afternoon Mr. Hurt,

This is to acknowledge that I have received and read your letter in its entirety. Thank you for your letter, the Town Council appreciates resident input.

Respectfully,

Naomi Rodriguez,
Ledyard Town Councilor

From: Jacob Hurt <jacob.d.hurt2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 10:46 AM
To: boe@ledyard.net <boe@ledyard.net>; ledyardrtc@gmail.com <ledyardrtc@gmail.com>
Cc: Town Council Group <TownCouncil@ledyardct.org>; Nicole Cruz <msphoenixcruz@gmail.com>; Alyssa Siegel-Miles <alyssajsiegel@gmail.com>
Subject: Ledyard RTC FB page Comments

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jacob.d.hurt2@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning,

Recently, the RTC made, and subsequently deleted, a post regarding a Ledyard AgriSci event. In its explanation, the RTC said "we regret unnecessarily adding heat rather than light to the debate over issues affecting the people of Ledyard".

This is commendable, and reflects an understanding of the kind of effect such a post can have on the volunteer who made the original mistaken post. I appreciate that the RTC's intent was not to direct any outrage towards that volunteer.

On its page, the RTC also took great exception to any implication that parents are villains, monsters, or terrorists. 5 days ago, the RTC re-posted a cartoon from last year's elections. A screenshot of this post is attached. In it, the implication is that parents who want to be vocally involved in BOE meetings or their child's education are somehow bad. The cartoon, and the discussion around it, generated plenty of controversy. While I personally think the cartoon added plenty of 'heat rather than light to the debate', I can appreciate the RTC's attempt to stand up for parents who are looking out for their kids.

With those 2 recent instances in mind, I am troubled by comments on the RTC's page that refer to someone in this town, by name, and imply that they (in the mind of the commenter) are a member of a terrorist group. Such comments definitely add heat and not light, and raise the risk of outrage being directed at someone for something not even relevant to the topic at hand. It is not beyond belief that in 2022, such comments could lead to unintended consequences for this particular resident or her family. I know Nicole and her family, and she deserves none of this treatment, let alone her spouse and kids. None of us would want to be treated this way, so it is not ok that anyone is calling her (or implying that she is) a terrorist, or that such a thing is tolerated. I do not know the individual making the accusation, but someone does - and that individual needs a timely lesson from someone they trust on why this behavior is not ok.

My ask for all involved here is simple: Delete the comments and make it clear that no resident of this town, especially a parent of 4 working hard as a BOE employee, should be treated like that online or in person, or that any such implication about a resident should be allowed to remain visible on the social media page of a major political party. We don't treat any of our residents like this, no matter how much we may disagree with them.

The elected officials and major party leaders of this town are uniquely positioned to use their voices to turn the temperature down in Ledyard. I ask that you do so. Make it clear not just to the commenter, but the entire town, that this is not acceptable.

Thank you for your time.

Jacob Hurt
6 Nugget Hill Drive