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ed's -
Lee Ann

Good evening Councilors,

A Code of Ethics provides clear expectations for how our town officials, employees, and volunteers should conduct themselves. By formally stating these values, we make it clear that public service in Ledyard requires honesty, accountability, and integrity.

It is surprising that our town—despite its educated and engaged leadership—has not yet adopted a Code of Ethics when roughly 87% of Connecticut municipalities already have one. Corporations, nonprofits, and governments at every level rely on such codes. They are not window dressing; they are public commitments to ethical behavior.

The draft before you is a worthy start, but it falls short of its purpose. Residents have identified specific weaknesses and offered constructive options for improvement. These deserve serious consideration before moving forward.

I'm also concerned about the process. Eighteen months of limited public input is not enough, and the public hearing tonight is scheduled for only two hours—hardly sufficient for a decision of this importance. Likewise, if the Council approves a ballot question, the proposed 40-day window is too short to educate thousands of voters and allow meaningful discussion.

For these reasons, I urge the Council to revise the ballot question. Instead of asking residents to vote yes or no on this draft, ask whether they support forming an ad hoc committee to develop a stronger Code of Ethics and bring that final document back for public approval.

A code of ethics is not something to fear. It is simply a pledge to accountability—something every resident has the right to expect. If there is confusion or opposition, let's take the time to resolve it and get this right.

Ledyard deserves a clear, thoughtful, and truly effective Code of Ethics. Please give our community the time and process it needs to achieve that goal.

Thank you.

Presentation drafted by Ed Murray

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