

To: Gary St. Vil, Chairman of Town Council
Members of Town Council

A Code of Ethics provides us with a clear descriptions of what we, as residents, can expect from those who serve the town as employees and volunteers.

By formalizing these essential values it will make clear the expected behaviors of all those who take a responsible position in our town.

Included in the Code is the requirement to establish an Ethics Commission the purpose of which is to serves as administrator of the code.

It is surprising that our town, with its educated and informed leaders, has not adopted a Code of Ethics when 87% of the towns and municipalities throughout Connecticut have already done so.

Corporations, organizations, all levels of government live by the code they have adopted. They are essential to their way of functioning. They are the public announcement of their values.

Ledyard deserves a Code of Ethics. The draft currently under review is a valiant effort but does not fulfill the expected purpose. Interested and caring residents have identified weaknesses and have provided options to improve the areas of concern.

I hope these recommendations will be seriously considered by the Town Council.

This process has taken approximately 18 months to reach this point, and it as had limited input and the public has not received adequate notice for something this important.

I am also surprised that the Town Council allotted only two hours for a public hearing. Again, that is hardly any time at all for something this important to our town.

I was also under the impression that the approved version was to be presented to the electorate in a YES or NO ballot question. Why was that changed?

The council did approve this version to become the town code. Predictably, it was vetoed by the Mayor.

I believe the residents deserve better than this. I believe we need their collective wisdom to assist in creating this document.

To this end, I ask the Council to let the veto stand and change the motion to establish an Ad hoc committee to develop a Code of Ethics. This should be bipartisan.

Contrary to arguments otherwise, there is no downside to establishing a Code of Ethics, if it is done with sincerity, honesty and a commitment to fairness and confidentiality.

A code establishes values and behaviors for employees and volunteers to follow and be held accountable to the residents for whom they serve. To be accountable is the least our residents should expect.

Let's take the time to create an Ethics Code that will serve Ledyard well.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Murray
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