

Roxanne Maher

From: Chris Jelden <chrisjelden@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 12:55 PM
To: Town Council Group
Subject: Fwd: Support for Establishing a Code of Ethics and Ethics Commission

Hello members of the Ledyard Town Council.

I understand a hearing regarding the ethics commission will be taking place this week.

I wanted to forward the email I wrote in December 2024 to reemphasize my support for an Ethics Commission and Ordinance.

I really hope that we as a community can agree that Ledyard does not want to be in the minority of towns who have no guidance regarding the ethical conduct of our elected officials and employees.

Thank you,
Chris Jelden
3 Whalehead Drive, Gales Ferry

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chris Jelden <chrisjelden@gmail.com>
Date: Dec 16, 2024 at 4:10 PM
To: Towncouncil <towncouncil@ledyardct.org>
Cc: Abru <abru@ledyardct.org>, Jbuh <jbuh@ledyardct.org>, Cgiri <cgiri@ledyardct.org>, Kjdom <kjdom@ledyardct.org>, Gpaul <gpaul@ledyardct.org>, Tsac <tsac@ledyardct.org>, Gsvil <gsvil@ledyardct.org>, Naomir <naomir@ledyardct.org>, Tryan <tryan@ledyardct.org>
Subject: Support for Establishing a Code of Ethics and Ethics Commission

Dear Members of the Ledyard Town Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance to establish a Code of Ethics and an Ethics Commission for the Town of Ledyard.

Until very recently I simply assumed Ledyard already had a Code of Ethics in place—it seemed like the kind of fundamental safeguard that any reasonable person would expect. In fact, when I asked around to fellow Ledyard residents, most people either believed we had one or felt we definitely should. Our current situation puts us in a small group of Connecticut towns without this framework, and that's not a distinction we should want to maintain.

Having a Code of Ethics isn't about suggesting that unethical behavior is rampant. It's about being prepared when gray areas arise. Clear guidelines offer those working within the town a reference point for iffy situations, ensuring decisions are made with integrity and transparency. An Ethics Commission would then serve as a resource for officials and employees—someone they can turn to for guidance, rather than having to navigate challenging situations alone.

I understand there may be concerns about the costs associated with implementing these measures. However, the cost of not having a proper ethical framework would be the breakdown of public trust and the difficulty of reacting after a problem emerges. A Code of Ethics and an Ethics Commission help us proactively safeguard our community's interests and maintain the trust of our residents.

Ultimately, no one needs a Code of Ethics until they do. By adopting this ordinance, Ledyard steps confidently toward good governance. It reassures the community that we value honesty, accountability, and responsible leadership.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Chris Jelden