

## Roxanne Maher

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**From:** John Rich  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 04, 2022 10:10 AM  
**To:** Gary Paul; Naomi Rodriguez; William Saums  
**Cc:** Fred Allyn, III; Roxanne Maher  
**Subject:** FW: National night out

Good morning,

I'm forwarding this email communication with a resident who was dissatisfied with Ledyard Police Department's efforts at National Night Out on August 2, 2022. This is for your information only as members of the Community Relations Committee.

Have a great weekend.

Chief John Rich

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**From:** John Rich  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 4, 2022 10:06 AM  
**To:** Nina Diaz <ninadiaz24@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** RE: National night out

Nina,

I've reached out to New London PD and spoke with Captain Galante and Captain Bergeson and I have complimented them and Chief Wright for their efforts in their community. I've also spoken with Chief Daley and SGT Rankin of Norwich PD's Community Policing Unit and gave them similar feedback.

With regard to your comments about political involvement, I spoke with the Chairman of the Ledyard Democratic Town Committee early yesterday morning and had a private discussion with him about their post to which you referred in your email.

I'm sorry to know that you weren't happy or pleased with our efforts at our first National Night Out. I'll speak for the department on that issue and if you have any suggestions for next year, I'm happy to receive them.

Sincerely,

Chief John Rich

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**From:** Nina Diaz <[ninadiaz24@yahoo.com](mailto:ninadiaz24@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 3, 2022 5:39 PM  
**To:** John Rich <[chief.rich@ledyardct.org](mailto:chief.rich@ledyardct.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: National night out

Given that the union set this up, I think I'd like to speak directly to them. While I understand you personally may be making an effort, at this point it looks like ledyard's first time participating in national night out turned into a back the blue political endorsement. That's not what National night out is supposed to be about. I hate to feel like I'm complaining but it hits a different nerve having a teen who wouldn't approach any of your officers (other than rick Mcswain) if her life depended on it. Then to hear "all were invited " when that is simply not true. Its frustrating to say

the least. This summer I've reached out countless times because as a parent, I genuinely want my daughters as well as others youth in our community to see that not all cops are bad. Having a black daughter makes me want that even more. Its disheartening that the community engagement officer showed such a lack of interest in meeting or even speaking with me(I still have not recieved a response to my last email asking McKinney if after 2pm was a good time to call). However as I told you " I absolutely will not beg him or the department" . I actually almost got excited for NNO. Then to see one political party present and campaigning, frankly, politics have no place at nno unless they are there with their families enjoying the community event. This should have been solely about police engagement with community. I've spoke to numerous residents who have lived in town as long or longer than myself( I've been in town 12yr) and none of them could recall names of 3 officers. Everyone knows Mcswain due to all the amazing work he did as the dare officer. He actually engages with community and honest when he stepped down from dare,our youth lost a good thing. I'm confused as to who thought bringing political candidates to the event was a good thing? If you dont want to look as if your biased or endorsing a particular party,then both or more honestly neither should be involved in a offical capacity. Did you reach out to the chief at NLPD like you told me you would?, they also held NNO last night, not a political thing involved. Norwich.... same, just community and cops, exactly how its supposed to be.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 5:14 PM, John Rich <[chief.rich@ledyardct.org](mailto:chief.rich@ledyardct.org)> wrote:

Nina,

I'm happy to take your suggestions for the department.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 3, 2022, at 4:12 PM, Nina Diaz <[ninadiaz24@yahoo.com](mailto:ninadiaz24@yahoo.com)> wrote:

The democratic town Committee was not invited. Having one and not the other makes it look like the PD is backing a particular party and frankly politics have no place at National night out. It's an event to bond with and educate your community. Do you happen to have an email contact for the union head who invited the Republican committee and candidates? The union hosted the event and I have some suggestions for next year. Please and thank you.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 4:09 PM, John Rich <[chief.rich@ledyardct.org](mailto:chief.rich@ledyardct.org)> wrote:

Hi Nina,

Thanks for your message. The event was a community event for everyone and open to all. It was sponsored by the Ledyard Police Union for the entire community.

Chief John Rich

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 3, 2022, at 4:00 PM, Nina Diaz <[ninadiaz24@yahoo.com](mailto:ninadiaz24@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Good afternoon. I'm writing to ask why the democratic town Committee and or candidates werent at NNO? I didnt realize ledyard was combining their first national night out with a political meet and greet. Is there a reason why the DTC was not present?

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)