

## VI. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Paul stated on August 31, 2022 he had the honor and privilege to serve his community with some of his fellow Councilors at the Community Relations Committee “Are You Ready for Winter?” table at the Farmers Market. He thanked Councilor Saums and Councilor Rodriguez for their efforts in preparing for and their participation in hosting the event. He stated the “Are You Ready for Winter?” Event featured the following gtown and regional services:

- ✓ Mental Health Resources
- ✓ Brian’s Healing Heart Suicide Prevention from Niantic
- ✓ Youth & Family Counseling Services –
- ✓ Ledyard Visiting Nurses – Home Health Care
- ✓ Energy Home Heating Fuel Assistance
- ✓ Utilities – Electric & Water Assistance
- ✓ Meal Delivery for Home Bound Individuals
- ✓ Renters Rebate Program
- ✓ No Interest Home Improvement Loans
- ✓ Linda C. Davis Food Pantry
- ✓ United Way of Southeastern Connecticut located in Gales Ferry
- ✓ Special Needs Family Registry
- ✓ Blue Envelope & Green Envelope Program for drivers with special needs was supported by the Police Department
- ✓ Ledge Light Health District Alliance for Living
- ✓ NLC Cares Team who were in attendance to recognize “Overdose Awareness Day”

Councilor Paul thanked the Ledyard Farmers’ Market Committee and all the volunteers who work hard every week to put on the Farmers Market all summer long. He stated there was no better Farmers Market than what they have in Ledyard; and that it was the volunteers who run it that make it so successful. He thanked the Farmers Market Committee for allowing the Community Relations Committee to host tables at the Market this summer to provide important information to our residents.

Councilor Paul continued by thanking the following:

- Ledyard Police Department - Councilor Paul stated the Police Department’s willingness to actively seek out ways to bring our community together, while also being willing to listen, learn and grow. He noted the Police Department’s work does not go unnoticed.
- Brian’s Healing Heart Suicide Prevention from Niantic. – Councilor Paul stated the Brian Dage Foundation provides education to help break the stigma of mental health, while saving countless lives.
- Ledyard Prevention Coalition and Ledge Light Health District Alliance for the Living and the NLC Cares Team. Councilor Paul stated they provided Narcan Kits to reverse drug overdose.
- Ledyard Youth Services Coordinator Kate Sikorsky-Maynard and Social Services Coordinator Kristen Chapman. Councilor Paul stated Ms. Sikorsky took the time to talk with him about the various services she and her Department provides to the community. He also thanked Ms. Chapman for her work in helping to support residents in our community. He stated Ms. Chapman provided the Committee with a lot of information which helped the Community Relations Committee prepare for the August 31, 2022 event.

Councilor Paul concluded by stating he was grateful, and that he appreciated everyone who helped the Community Relations Committee host the “*Are You Ready for Winter?*” table at the Farmers Market. He noted the number people he thanked this evening showed the community that help, and services were available. He stated it showed that to break the stigma of mental health, to overcome racism, and to beat violence that they must come together as a community. He stated only by listening, educating and overcoming challenges together was how they could build a strong community that would weed out the things that seek to divide us. He stated it starts with us, within our homes, and moves to our neighbors, then the neighborhood, then the schools, and then to other towns, and to the region. He stated he was proud of our community and that he was proud of Ledyard’ volunteers who serve to make Ledyard such a great place live and work. He stated all this was on display at the Community Relations “*Are You Ready for Winter?*” table at the August 31, 2022 Farmers Market; like it was everyday here Ledyard. He reminded people that if they need to help to please reach out, noting information was available on the town’s website at [www.ledyardct.org](http://www.ledyardct.org); or they could call the Town Hall or any member of the Town Council. He stated folks should never be ashamed or embarrassed if they need help. ***He stated if you were suffering from depression, anxiety or any mental health crisis please call 211***; or the Ledyard Youth & Social Services Department at: (860) 464-3213 or (860) 464-3222 to find out how you can be connected to people who can help. He stated ***No One is Alone*** and if you or someone you know was having thoughts of suicide, to please call the ***Suicide Crisis Center*** at ***988*** or dial ***911***.

Councilor Paul continued by announcing on Saturday, October 8, 2022 that an Inspirational Festival – *First Fruits of the Harvest* will be held at the Sweet Hill Farm in Gales Ferry from 12:00 Noon – 4:00 p.m. He stated this would be a non-town event, which would feature vendors, inspirational worship music, and some churches would be represented. He stated the focus would be on mental health and that he would give a short talk on mental health.

Councilor Rodriguez thanked the Ledyard Farmers’ Market Committee for organizing and managing the Farmers’ Market. She stated the Committees hard work does not go unnoticed, stating that she enjoyed the Farmers Market all summer. She stated on August 31, 2022 the Farmers Market and Community Relations Committee hosted the Brian Dagle Foundation and Brian’s Healing Heart Center for Hope and Healing. She stated the Brian Dagle Foundation had many visitors to their tent at the Market at which they spoke with folks about dealing with grief, loss, and suicide prevention. She thanked Brian’s Healing Heart for coming to Ledyard.

Councilor Rodriguez stated Chief Rich has been working with the Groton Town Police Department, Waterford Police Department, and the Southern Connecticut State University Center for Excellence in Autism Spectrum Disorders to provide a *Mock Traffic Stop Program* that would be directed toward individuals with Autism, Deaf -Hearing Impaired or New Drivers. She stated the *Mock Traffic Stop Presentation* would be held on Saturday October 1, 2022 at Fitch High School from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon. She noted this idea for a *Mock Traffic Stop* came up during a meeting with the Ledyard Police Department and parents of autistic children. She stated in preparation for the *Traffic Stop* the Ledyard Police Department would be hosting an Ice Cream Social at the Ledyard Senior Center on Van Tassel Drive, Gales Ferry, on Friday, September 30, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. for the community and families with autistic individuals.

Councilor Rodriguez continued by noting that she along with Mayor Allyn, III, attended the Ledyard Prevention Coalition Meeting on September 6, 2022 at which their Annual Report was provided. She went on to announce the following events: (1) Trunk or Treat October 28, 2022 - Ledyard Prevention Coalition would participate in the event; (2) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day October 29, 2022 – The Ledyard Police Department would be participating in the event; (3) Suicide Mental Health Prevention Awareness September 21, 2022 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation Pharmacy parking lot.

Councilor Saums complemented Community Relations Committee Chairman Paul on the work he was doing. He stated Councilor Paul was doing a great job and he thanked him for his work.