

Roxanne Maher

From: Kyle Dykes <kyledykes977@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 5:38 PM
To: April Brunelle; Jessica Buhle; Carmen Garcia Irizarry; Kevin J. Dombrowski; Gary Paul; Tony Saccone; Gary St. Vil; Naomi Rodriguez; Timothy Ryan; Town Council Group
Cc: Fred Allyn, III
Subject: Third Party Flag Ordinance

Town Council,

Good evening. My name is Kyle Dykes and I am the pastor of Gallup Hill Baptist church and have been a resident of Ledyard for the past 11 years. I am writing to you in light of your impending discussion and decision on raising unofficial third-party flags on town property to encourage you to abandon the pursuit of the ordinance.

First of all, I believe we have some goals in common here. We desire all people in our town to flourish and thrive regardless of their religion, political ideology, sexual preferences, etc. I love our town. Gallup Hill Baptist Church loves this town. We pray earnestly for its success and flourishing and ask God bless this town. We all benefit in a town that thrives.

However, this ordinance will negatively impact the flourishing of the town regardless of what type of flag you choose to fly for the following reasons:

- The town, our schools, etc. should be places of ideological neutrality. By raising the flag of a particular group you are in effect saying - we favor this group above others. It communicates support to one particular group while at the same time communicating opposition towards any that disagree with it. For example, If you choose to fly the LGBTQ flag, you will automatically communicate to culturally conservative residents, Orthodox Muslims or Jews, historically orthodox Christians that their beliefs and concerns are secondary and un-favored. While the decision will seem inclusive to some; it is automatically exclusive to others.

- How will you decide which third party flags to fly? If you fly the flag of one group, then you automatically open the door to flying the flag for ALL groups. What will you say when someone asks you to fly a Palestinian flag? An Islamic Jihadist flag? The Christian flag? A Satanist flag? This is a Pandora's box that should remain closed.

It is in the best interest of all of Ledyard's residents to make sure our town stays neutral. Fly flag of our country and our state, that's it. We can all unite under those flags; any others will divide us.

Kyle and Marcia Dykes