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From: Wendy Hellekson <whellekson.dtc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 6:29 PM
To: Town Council Group
Subject: Correspondence from the Ledyard DTC
Attachments: Opening statement .docx

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Everyone,

We have a statement that we would like to share for the next meeting. It is intended to be read aloud but we wanted to make sure a hard copy was submitted.

Thank You,

Wendy Hellekson
Acting Chair
Ledyard DTC.

"Good evening. (Name, address). And on behalf of the Democratic Town Committee, congratulations on your wins. We are especially pleased that this year's campaign was an example of the civility we should be able to expect from our local elected officials and candidates.

As Democrats campaigned, we heard many stories, complaints, and wishes from the voters. The greatest of which was that people did not hear about big decisions until after the fact and they were unclear on how to find out about these decisions ahead of time.

Democrats campaigned on a four-part platform: CARE - an acronym for Community, Advocacy, Representation, and Education. We chose to use these as our guiding lights for the wide variety of situations which public servants could encounter. The voters responded very positively to that message and now all of you have an opportunity to put these core principles into practice.

As you each begin your terms, I ask that you think about ways to reach out and engage your constituents. Find ways to show them what's going on, and how their investments - both their votes and property taxes - are paying off. Strive to have big decisions widely publicized and give people a chance to weigh in early so you know you have widespread community support for them. Especially if the decision is a hard one, it should not be a surprise to us after the fact. We know you cannot control everything, and cannot please everyone, but you can always listen and help residents be heard. We are all part of this community and communication between elected officials, Ledyard Residents and other stakeholders is paramount.

We also encourage you to find ways to improve the town's relations with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, and ensure that if another hateful incident occurs in this town, that it will be resoundingly rejected. Rejected not just because of the statements you make about it, but because of the climate you build in this town to make it welcoming for all people.

We urge you to "CARE" for your constituents - it's a simple acronym, but it works well!

Again, our congratulations, thanks for your service, and best wishes to each of you. We look forward to a productive and successful term."
