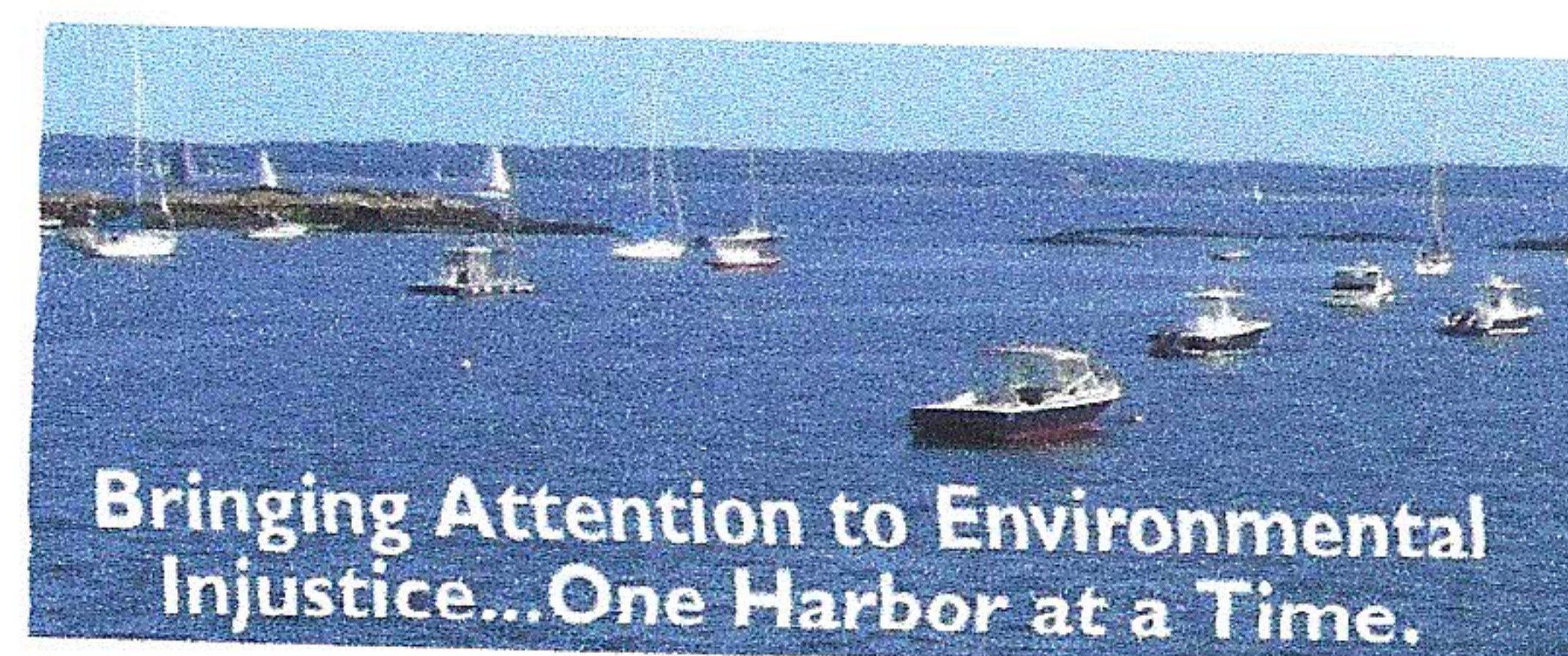


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Bringing Attention to Environmental  
Injustice... One Harbor at a Time.

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May 16, 2011

Dear Mayor French and City Council Members,

I would like to respond to the questions from the last City Council meeting of May 11<sup>th</sup> 2011. Although you stated that the questions were from "The Community," I believe the questions addressed to me at the last meeting were a projection of your and some of the other council members. Regardless of where the questions originated, I am happy to answer them.

By the way the title to our new public awareness campaign is "One of the first lessons we teach our children is where to put their sewage. Why has the Rye City Council not learned that lesson?"

I'd like to preface my answers here by saying that unfortunately you Mayor French are now using your position as Mayor to attempt to incite Rye residents against us because this campaign effectively reflects on how you and this City Council are not doing your jobs. It is you, thru your inactions that have brought this particular vehicle to the residents, merchants and children of Rye. It is you that has failed to enforce the health and sanitary laws that protect the people. It is you, now lying to the people of Rye telling them that Hen Island is only used as seasonal campsites, is used infrequently and that it's water storage related mosquito infestation affects only Hen Island residents. It is you who is still refusing to enforce the laws now apparently due in part to a personal relationship with one of your fellow Meadow Place neighbors. And it is you that is not living up to the oath of office that you took when you became Mayor of the City of Rye.

I am sure that there are certain members of the community that are outraged by the new public awareness campaign. But I am equally certain that there are many more Rye citizens that are bewildered, unhappy and angered that this newly elected Council has again failed to enforce laws that were put in place to protect the health and safety of its residents as well as the environment and the waters of Long Island Sound.

Your first question was - **"What is the complaint?"**

I cannot even begin to believe that you would ask that question at this late stage but for the record "the complaint" is centered on the health and safety of the residents of Rye including Hen Island and those who use the waters of the Long Island Sound. We are not just concerned about human sewage; we are also concerned about the collection of bird feces infected water, collected from roof tops for domestic use in homes. And we are concerned about thousands of gallons of water storage that allows the breeding of millions of mosquitoes and contributes to arguably the largest concentrated mosquito infestation in Westchester County.

Your next question was - **"What action are we asking the Council to take?"**

We are asking the Council to require that Hen Island meet the Rye City laws and codes in the same manner as anyone else in Rye City would be required to. We would request that when laws are violated on Hen Island that violation notices be issued and court compliance be enforced just as it

would anywhere in else in Rye City.

Your next question – **“Why do you have to be so obscene and crude on the van?”**

We don't believe we are being either obscene or crude. We believe we are provocatively drawing attention to our environmental cause thru satire using humor and wit as our weapon. Most satire is used with the intent of shaming individuals into improvement; although satire is usually meant to be funny its greater purpose is often constructive social criticism.

Your next question – **“What do you say to the children that are downtown that have to look at that or the family that had to sit at their first communion dinner at the restaurant downtown and had to look at that display?”**

I would explain to my children that when elected officials like the Mayor of the City of Rye and the Rye City Council do not uphold their oaths of office and do not do their job properly the citizens can't take them into court for making mistakes. So instead of taking them to court, activists are permitted to make fun of them using what we in America call satire. In this case some citizen activists are using satire as a funny way of pointing out that the Mayor and City Council are not doing their jobs. In this case, these governmental officials didn't stop people from letting their human waste go directly into the Long Island Sound and they further allow people to use water with bird poop in it to take a bath in and brush their teeth with. That is why the satire depicts City Council members sitting on toilets in front of Rye City Hall. But I would also tell them that the picture is really not them. It just looks like them.

Your next question – **“What do you say to the business owners? We have worked with the Chamber of Commerce very hard to bring business and people back to our downtown.”**

I would tell the business owners and The Chamber that if they would like the Floatiemobile moved they should call the Mayor and ask him to enforce the sewage codes along with rectifying potable water and mosquito infestation issues on Hen Island. I would explain that the council's inability to enforce the laws are reflecting on Rye's business community in a negative way. I would ask The Chamber to explain to the Mayor and the City Council that local consumers have many options when it comes to dining and shopping and a negative position from a city council such as the one they have taken with regard to the environment could become a major reason for a business district to be avoided because of what some may feel about the uncomfortable nature of the Floatiemobile's visual display. Most people don't like to discuss sanitary issues let alone be reminded about them when they are shopping or dining.

Your next question – **“Why are you making it so personal?”**

I don't see any of this as personal. Once you elected to become members of the Rye City Council you took on a civic responsibility and became public figures. You can't have it both ways.

My objective here is to simply expose a City Council that refuses to protect the health and safety of the community and the environment. The City Council has taken on a job that requires them to enforce the law and with that, it also gives them the discretion to enforce any laws that they see fit. Should the council decide **not** to enforce the standing laws, as they have done so in this case, the only recourse the citizens have, is to make that fact known to the general public so that those officials don't get re-elected. That is what had transpired during The Otis Administration and I had high hopes and direct promises from you that this new administration, if and when elected, would step up to plate and protect the environment. Unfortunately **you did not**; and simply attempted to

push any blame on the county government while trying to hide the problems once again.

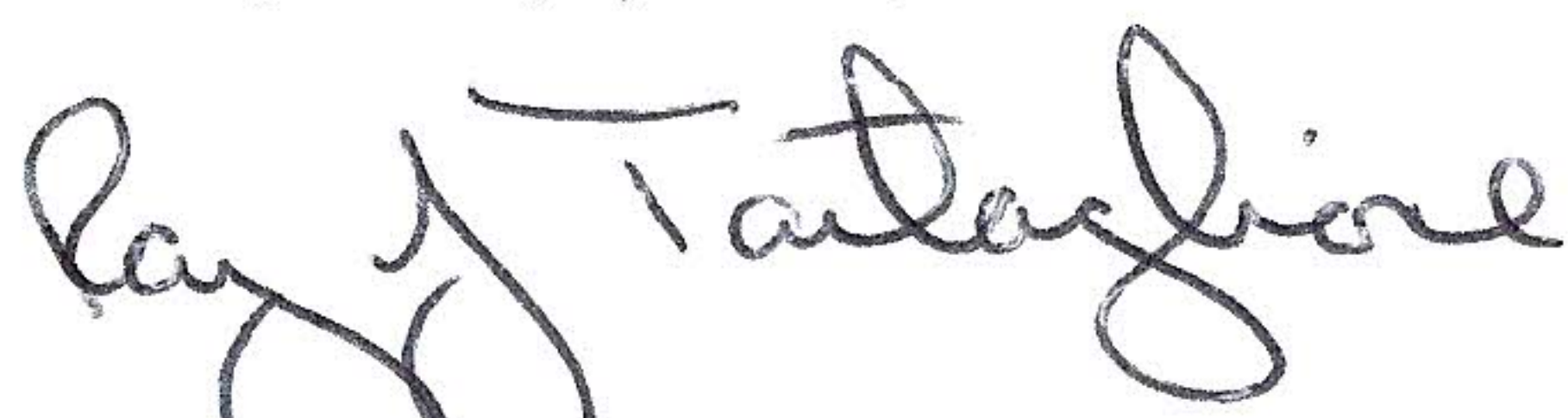
So again, let's be very clear. This administration currently allows an entire Rye City community (Hen Island) to pollute the waters of Long Island Sound, collect bird feces infected water for use in their homes as domestic water and also allows one of the worst mosquito infestation generators in Westchester County to continue in business. When I asked to attend Hen Island remediation specific meetings, be informed of or requested information pertaining to what was transpiring behind closed doors I was refused all of the aforementioned. Now the public is receiving ever evolving and conflicting statements about those closed door meetings and in some cases receiving outright bold faced lies as to what is actually transpiring.

Mr. Mayor there is two buttons in front of you. One is marked "PNE" (Pollution No Enforcement) and the other is marked "EPOHASWNP" (Enforcement, Protection Of Health And Safety With No Pollution). Should you choose to keep your finger on the PNE - Pollution button the responsibility becomes yours.

I did not bring these environmental problems to Rye; I only bring necessary public attention to them. I want nothing more than to remove the Floatiemobile, stop personally attending Rye City Council meetings, dismantle the website HEALtheHARBOR.com and retire Mr. Floatie. But none of that will happen until the issues are addressed appropriately.

And just in case you missed it, I would hope that you might take to heart the words of legal caution recited by Judge Cary at last week's annual Square House Meeting. Here the former Rye Mayor noted that the City Council should not attempt to use the police to stop an otherwise peaceful protest.

Very truly yours,



Raymond J. Tartaglione