

Rye Sound Shore Review 3-11-11

City critic responds to editorial

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to Councilman Joe Sack's guest editorial "Get off the pot" [*Feb. 25 edition*]. I did like the double entendre but I must say that my drug of choice is cabernet and my favorite is Shafer Hillside Select, just in case you would like to send a peace offering. Although I do appreciate the bridge you have built for which I can retreat from, we certainly don't look at this one the same way.

In your letter you stated you "certainly do not agree with calling out volunteer public officials in such a personal way, and in a way designed more to be hurtful than to achieve true progress." I don't see any of this as personal and there is no personal hurt intended. Similarly, I don't believe I am "attacking individual members of the community." Once you became members of the Rye City Council, you took on a responsibility and became a public figure. You can't have it both ways.

My objective here is to 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 you the discretion to enforce any laws that you see fit.

Should the council decide not to enforce the law, as they have done so in this case, the only recourse the people have, is to make that fact known to the public so those officials don't get re-elected. That is what had transpired during the Otis administration and I had high hopes and promises that the new administration would step up to bat.

Unfortunately they did not; they just pushed the blame on the county and tried to run away from the problem. The current administration allows an entire community (Hen Island) to pollute the waters of the Long Island Sound, collect bird-feces-infected water for use in homes as domestic water and also allows one of the worst mosquito infestations in Westchester County to continue.

As far as your comment that "we don't deserve this" I believe this council deserves everything it gets, both positive and negative. There are no accidents in life. Do I deserve to shower in bird-infected feces water? We are not in the outback of Africa. Do the citizens deserve to have the waters they swim in polluted, and do my guests and I have to endure the possibility of encephalitis or West Nile Virus because your City Council doesn't want to enforce the law or protect my community?

You will not have a spot on my billboard. I have always thought you to be the voice of reason, even though sometimes we agree to disagree. One of your greatest qualities is you listen.

In closing Joe, you speak of integrity and respect. Respect, well respect is earned, not deserved. I have sat back very respectfully and given this council the opportunity to address these issues, not correct them, but just address them and nothing has happened for over a year.

This council has tried to say that our laws are outdated, not on the books and not enforceable. After the recent Supreme Court rejected all of the above statements it still tries to push the blame on the county and now threatens to remove the laws that have protected the Long Island sound for over 60 years because the judge did not agree with the City's position. Although we live in Westchester this problem is in Rye, in your backyard and especially in mine. This council's job is to protect me and my family and this council is not doing its job.

Ray Tartaglione,
Rye