

VoteWestport Press Release

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Our campaign would like to provide the town residents with updates from our office and address the topics of mask mandates and the civilian police review board.

Masks:

Mask usage should be considered as just one of many tools used in keeping people safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. The town made recent changes to mask mandates, allowing people to exercise within fitness businesses without masks, yet restricting parents that do not show proof of vaccination into the schools. Selectman candidate Elgin states “we are always hearing people tell us to follow the science, but it is frustrating when those same people blatantly ignore it.” The World Health Organization states children ages 5 and under should not be required to use a mask, while children ages 6 to 11 should only use a mask if they meet specific criteria. Elgin asks, “Why is our town ignoring WHO guidance that appears to be working for many other countries?” When Elgin discovered Sut. Scarice restricted visitors to schools unless proof of vaccination was given, he stated “I have not discovered any evidence or town ordinance that supports what our current administration is doing, by banning parents from entering

schools and forcing individuals to display vaccine cards to enter government buildings.”

Per the school superintendent, students are eating lunch outside with their masks off, but are also eating snacks indoors with their masks off. Per the current health director and selectman, mask usage is now mandatory indoors unless you are exercising. “The constant changing and contradictory guidance from our health director and officials does nothing but confuse and frustrate residents.”

Selectman candidate Elgin also stressed that “We need a consistent message that is based on expert guidance and not political motivations. I would start by replacing the health director with a physician, as opposed to the current administration keeping Mark Cooper, who is under investigation for taking and/or misplacing money from our health district.”

Second Selectman candidate Dr. Louis D’Onofrio, DNP states “mask types and protections vary, and should be part of a strategic plan to battle the spread of respiratory infections. Public health is doing a disservice by failing to educate our community regarding the importance of smoking and obesity prevention and stressing healthy lifestyles to boost immune health”. Louis also states “Masks and vaccines are helpful but may not be appropriate for everyone. In medicine, there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all treatment”.

Civilian Police Review Board:

Our campaign stance is in support of any government check and balance system. Elgin states “The women and men that serve and protect us in the Westport Police Department are among the highest caliber of character, but not having oversight allows for corruption.” Elgin adds, “just look at what the lack of oversight did for our health department. The health director is the treasurer, meeting secretary, administrator of all banking accounts, and was assigned to head up his own investigation of misplaced funds of over \$70,000 this year along with funds missing in previous years. Our current administration continues to avoid comment on this corruption rather than take actions”.