

Donna Conkling

From: Mark Lewis <markannlewis@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2018 5:39 PM
To: valerie@scarsdalenews.com; carlfinger38@gmail.com; Lena Crandall; Mayor; Donna Conkling
Subject: Change the Signage Law
Attachments: Change the Signage Law.docx

Letter to the Editor and the Board of Trustees

Change the Signage Law

Until this year, when Mr. Berg filed his lawsuit, political yard signs were routinely taken down when they were in the town right of way. I, as the Democratic Party Chairman, had inquired about why signs were taken down. I was told by Mr. Gatta, the former Village Manager, they could not be placed in the Village's right of way. I then instructed our district leaders to make sure any political signs must not be placed in the village right of way or the town would take them down. Mr. Pappalardo's statement that there is a long standing town practice of allowing political signs on the Village's right of way is simply not true.

After the lawsuit was filed, one of the signs I put up for the June, 2018 primary was taken down by a town employee and returned to me when I complained to Rob Cole, the Deputy Village Manager. He told me it was a mistake and the employee had not been told of the new agreement to permit political signs to remain in the Village right of way. However, there is nothing in writing that states that it is a policy to leave signs up. If anything, the opposite is true since they can apparently be removed at will. Mr. Pappalardo has stated that anybody who objects to a political sign that's next door to them in the village right of way can call Village Hall and a Scarsdale employee will take it down. Therefore enforcement of the policy is very subjective. Until there is a written policy, the decision is at the whim of the Village Manager as to what happens with political signs. This removal also goes against Scarsdale's proposed written policy.

Only Mr. Berg's lawsuit stops Scarsdale from taking down political signs from the Village right of way. I want a clearly written law on political signage that eliminates the subjective removal of signs by Scarsdale employees. I would also expect that if our political signs are removed, I and other political leaders would be notified.

As is proposed, the Village Engineer's permission must be given to place a political sign on the Village right of way. It is unclear whether blanket permission can be requested by a political leader for their candidates' signs, or whether each homeowner need apply for each of their own signs. Political signs are, after all, up for a finite amount of time during the election and are then taken down.

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