

Donna Conkling

From: Mayra Rodriguez Valladares <mrvassoc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 9:25 AM
To: 'Justin Arest'
Cc: 'Seth Ross'; Mayor; Matthew Callaghan; Donna Conkling; Carl Finger
Subject: Written Policies for Selecting Residents for Boards, Councils, and Ad Hoc Committees

Good morning!

I write to encourage you, as chair of the Personnel Committee, to exercise leadership in writing policies and procedures for the selection of residents for volunteer boards, councils, and ad hoc committees. It is not uncommon for well-run private and public sector entities to have written policies for how personnel are selected. It would be a good initiative for you to take leadership on, in order to show residents that you are serious about having good governance and transparency at Village Hall. Unfortunately, your predecessors have not had any established written policies and procedures on how to select residents for boards and councils which may explain the nepotism and patronage appointments that exist.

I am stunned that a place like Scarsdale does not have written policies on how residents are selected for these boards and councils. If one goes through last and this year's residents chosen, the vast majority are members of the Citizens Non-Partisan Party, whose names appeared in Scarsdale Inquire ads supporting your party. Also, troublesome, is the the fact that the two who were selected for the Board of Assessment Review have no expertise in real estate and property valuation. One of them wrote a glowing endorsement for you. Are you all selecting residents just based on whether they helped you get into office?

Additionally, the optics of having the wife and brother of two trustees on the boards is not beneficial to you nor to Scarsdale's reputation.

Please let me know when you will add this item to the Board agenda.

As you see, I have included the mayor, the trustees with relatives on boards, and the trustee liaison to my neighborhood, Old Scarsdale. Ms. Conkling, at your convenience, please upload my letter in the written correspondence. I encourage you to have a folder on personnel, since several residents, including me, have written about personnel matters in the last couple of months.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,
Mayra Kirkendall-Rodriguez

www.MRVAssociates.com
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mrvassociates>
Twitter@MRVassoc

Tel: +1-212-491-9153