

October 6, 2017

Dear Mayor Redefer (and Town Council):

We congratulate you on your election to serve Dewey Beach, and wish to open up a dialogue on positive reforms needed for Dewey in light of the town Investigator's report.

We believe that the first order of business is to evaluate the Investigator's report *equally* with respect to its findings on both Marc Applebaum *and* the Town officials who made the media allegations on June 14, 2017 eventually leading to the investigator being hired. The investigator documented multiple troubling actions by the Town police, Lifeguard Captain, and Building Inspector, some of which are ongoing. The investigator's report found the Officials' wrongful actions on behalf of the Town date back many years prior to their June complaint letter, and well before Marc Applebaum became the Town Manager.

The investigation reported that many, if not all, of the allegations made by Town Police Chief Mackert, Lifeguard Capt Todd Frichtman and Bill Mears were without basis or documentation. In performing his rightful duties of oversight of the officials, the investigator found that the Town Manager ran into serious coordinated opposition from these three officials who sought at all costs to avoid accountability or supervision. There is no question that the Town Manager was at all times the supervisor of these three officials, as per Dewey Town Charter, and the report was due to Mr. Appelbaum's persistence in holding these three officials accountable.

Therefore given the fact of the report's defining a systemic dysfunction among Town Officials, the Council's review of Mr. Appelbaum's employment must also consider the employment of the Town officials who were named in the report. Mr. Appelbaum's departure is now a given, but the findings of the investigator relating to the Town's Chief of Police, Lifeguard Captain, and Building Inspector will continue and likely grow in attention into the spring and summer, as decisions are made relating to core town functions, including policing, arrests, staffing and payroll issues of lifeguards, and building inspections.

It is, therefore, imperative for Council to hold persons accountable for any prior or ongoing wrongful actions for a few important reasons. First, for the ability of the town to credibly perform its basic governmental duties in Dewey's future. Second, based on their public accusations which the investigator found were motivated by an effort of coordinated retaliation, the town officials named in the report have compromised their ability to function with integrity in the view of anyone reading the report, including the undersigned residents and owners. Third, it's vital to allow a new Town Manager to do his or her job without encountering the documented refusals of oversight and power struggles undermining the Town. Finally, Council's actions must seek to avoid further liability from actions of these Town officials part which could be used against the town now or in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of our views as you take up this matter on Saturday and beyond. We look forward to working with you to make needed reforms in Dewey to address the report's troubling findings, and to define the Town as positive and family friendly, with an open, accountable and transparent government being a necessity. Please contact me for any further information you may need, and the undersigned residents and myself look forward to working with you and the Council.

Signed,



Jeffrey C. Smith jcs@wpa.org 443.603.2132

On behalf of, and with written email concurrence and approval of, the following Current Dewey Beach Property Owners after letter was circulated and reviewed on October 4th and 5th, 2017:

Richard Baierlein
Rick Bole
Elaine Bole
Richard Broad
Stephen Eckermann
Frances Gdowski
Donald Gritti
Patricia Gritti
David Kaminsky
Amy Levy
Michael Lanham
Dianne Lanham
Renee Luttrell
Kenneth W. Lodge
Susan B. Lodge
Richard Miller
Patricia Miller
David Moskowitz
Nelson Parmelee
Mary Ann Parmelee
Suzanne Pranzatelli
Brenda Schrier
Marty Seitz, former commissioner
Marilyn Seitz
Robert Shaler
Sandra Smith
Diane TenHoopen
Dennis Trencher
Susan Trencher
Beth Wade

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