



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The latest attack piece from my political opponents has sadly sunk to a new low in their most recent letter that continues the series of politically motivated assaults against me. This one is cloaked as a challenge to a “gas policy” that has been an acceptable practice for decades. My former running mates, Trustees McGiff and Crean, have been fully aware for years that I use Village gas for travel related to Village business, yet they have never voiced any concerns until recently. In fact, Mr. McGiff conveniently forgets that he assigned “gas keys” to a public safety officer, a fire marshal and approved a member of the building department to take his own son to school in Riverhead using a village vehicle and gas, all without getting the required Board approval or oversight. Let’s be clear: these accusations, by Mr. McGiff and Mr. Crean, are conveniently timed to intimidate and discredit me in the furtherance of their own distorted political agendas. It is the worst kind of political grandstanding to ask you to accept skewed math and half-truths.

During my twenty years in village government, I have never seen such a mean-spirited, mud-slinging, shallow campaign.

If residents have concerns, I welcome a discussion – a full discussion—on our current practices and policies for the use of municipal gas. Mr. McGiff failed to mention that I am responsible for instituting the current key and PIN oversight system at the pump. He also failed to mention that, unlike some of my predecessors, I refused an official Village vehicle. By using my private car and village gas I also save the village the costs of the vehicle, accompanying wear and tear, repairs and insurance, while IRS mileage reimbursements (\$.555 per mile) more than doubles the cost. I assure you this has resulted in significant savings to the taxpayers.

I do believe that there should be more accountability, and if there is any error that I made it was that I should have put in for reimbursement instead of using the Village pumps. After a thorough policy review process, we will put in place new procedures to ensure the public that their tax dollars are used for Village purposes only.

Let me also assure you that the Mayor’s work is not a part-time job that can be done during one’s “free time,” or on the train coming home from a “real job”, or by hiding behind a desk at Village Hall. As anyone with experience in both the public and private sectors know, the \$150 million in government grants and private investments that have funded Patchogue’s re-development did not find their way to Village Hall on their own. Patchogue is indeed 2.2 square miles, and the sources for a vast majority of that funding were located outside our borders. It took countless hours of hard work. It took preparation for, and attendance at meetings scheduled during the day, the evening, and on weekends. It took countless hours and many miles behind the wheel to convince those controlling that revenue to move it from greater Long Island, New York City, Albany, and Washington DC to Patchogue’s downtown, neighborhoods, parks, roads and waterfront, despite the downward spiral of the economy.

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The job of Mayor is a 24/7 commitment, whether it is dealing with Hurricane Irene and its aftermath, the multiple snowstorms of last winter or working to heal the community after the tragic death of Marcello Lucero. The connection to the community does not happen only at Village Board Meetings, it happens on the streets, in the neighborhoods and at people's homes. I am on the streets of Patchogue everyday trying to make this Village a place we all can be proud of. I apologize, to you the residents, for what may be perceived as taking advantage of your tax dollar, but I assure you that my intentions are only to serve you better.

I am excited at the prospect of continuing on the road to Patchogue's revitalization and serving you, the residents of the Village of Patchogue.

Thank you,



Paul Pontieri
Mayor
Incorporated Village of Patchogue



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