



Billy Walsh <bwalsh@natickma.org>

Vote on Community proposal

1 message

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Wed, Nov 20, 2024 at 11:46 AM

To: selectboard@natickma.org

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Selectboard of Natick,

This is an open email to the Board concerning the vote scheduled for tonight concerning this "Recognizing the Values and Diversity of Our Community Policy" which the Board is attempting to push through. The proposal itself is inherently conflicting and flawed procedurally and substantively. The policy should not be voted on in this form as it is inviting further litigation in the future should the issues it intends to govern arise down the road.

The first paragraph cites Commonwealth v Lunn and talks about a policy which shall not conflict with laws of the state or the country. Paragraph 5 then becomes murky in unnecessarily restricting the Natick Police Department (NPD) from cooperating with proper federal investigation and enforcement of federal immigration law, procedure and enforcement. The policy prohibits "Town funds, resources, facilities, property, equipment or personnel to directly assist in the enforcement of federal immigration laws." It puts the NPD in a precarious position. There are reasons Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) exists, not the least of which to provide a safe community for Towns such as Natick. This is so illegal immigrants with criminal records cannot freely walk our streets threatening the hard-working law abiding citizens of our town. Mandating the NPD not cooperate with ICE and/or other federal law enforcement with exception of "judicial warrant, judicial subpoena or judicial detainer" is a disservice to the fine officers of this Town which try to protect and to serve us all on a daily basis and maintain some semblance of rule of law in these difficult times. What is to happen if our police are not enabled to provide information because a legal document does not exist? Does it lead to a situation such as that currently ongoing down in GA where a young girl, out for a run on a Sunday morning, was senselessly murdered by an illegal criminal immigrant?

Perhaps equally troubling is that this VOTE is being barnstormed through by the Board. While the Board may not agree with the pending administrations' political views, this feels like an urgent attempt to make policy on a matter in which the people of the Town of Natick are not fully informed, or even aware of the fact such a vote is to take place. It is buried as Item 6G. in the Natick Select Board Agenda for 11/20/2024. It ranks below water and sewer abatement appeals despite the longstanding ramifications it could have on our Town, potentially for the years to come. It seems the Board's vote should support the wishes of the majority of the people, not the personal political views of the Board members. What has the Board done to educate the people of the ramifications of such a vote? Where is the money to come from to support a YES vote? Where is the housing to come from? How are the schools to handle this? What has the Board done to educate itself as to the views of the majority of people who live in Natick? This is just the tip of the iceberg as to questions for which there are not answers, other than even further taxes on the people who already struggle to make a daily living and pay their bills. Natick town taxes are already amongst the highest in the State.

Lastly, this feels like a rushed attempt to establish policy in advance of the new administration to take office in January 2025. Personal political views should not and cannot shape the Town of Natick's approach moving forward. A yes vote is sure to bring about increased costs, increased stresses and unnecessary burdens on the NPD, and additional economic hardships on the citizens of Natick. The town may very well be placing future federal funding in question should the incoming administration restrict or limit monetary contributions to cities and towns which defy its immigration policy and agenda. This is not a risk the majority of the citizens of this Town should have to take, nor wish to, to satisfy the political agenda of the few.

Inclusion of properly documented legal immigrants which are a positive influence in our community is welcomed as always. This policy as proposed does NOT achieve that agenda.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING A POLICY to vote which could impose the political wishes of the few on the majority. Town government, in whatever form, is intended to be representative of the views of the *majority* of the people.

Michael Guagenty

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