

Subject: Re: One of two emails

From: garyaglass@yahoo.com

To:

Date: Thursday, August 2, 2018, 9:57:22 PM EDT

I cannot thank you enough for sending this letter for me! I really appreciate the chance to respond to the dirty tricks. PLEASE feel free to forward this reply to anyone you wish.

There are a whole lot of falsehoods in this letter, and some things that are totally out of context, including:

1. I have never suggested a lottery for property rentals. That accusation is totally false. I do support restrictions on the by-the-night rentals, all year long, in houses that are pure commercial properties, with investor-owners (usually hiding behind an LLC) who never uses the house themselves. I do not know where people got the idea they could operate a year-round commercial rental business in our residentially zoned neighborhoods.
2. I am not proposing new taxes, but because the Mayor & Commissioners are currently talking about how to raise revenues, I have said they should not be focusing solely on higher parking fees and residential property taxes. They should look at what is being done in Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island and the State of Delaware, which collect gross receipts taxes from their hotels (room taxes), and in some cases they also collect gross receipts taxes on other commercial businesses and commercial landlords. In fact, Mayor Kuhns has mentioned some of the same ideas in a recent meeting. As a trained accountant, I do not understand why Rehoboth has such a narrow tax base and puts so much of the revenue burden on the homeowners.
3. I have never run a "mini-hotel" and I don't even understand what these anonymous accusers are trying to say. I have owned my home in Rehoboth for almost 20 years, and all that time (and currently), I have either rented my home in the summer or shared my home in the summer. In 2018, I rented my house by-the-week, for 3 weeks in the peak season, using a local realtor. Maybe the statement about "renting by the room" refers to the old-fashioned summer "share house," that used to be very popular in Rehoboth. Until a few years ago, my partner and I used to offer seasonal "shares" in our house, renting bedrooms rooms to friends for the whole summer season, while we stayed in our bedroom. I have never proposed any restrictions against these traditional rental activities in the summer, because I think these are completely different than an LLC investment property that is renting by-the-night, all year long, and is never used by the owner, who doesn't really care about the neighborhood or the community.
4. I have never supported beach passes. This accusation is completely false. In last week's public forum of the Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association, I was the only one of the three candidates who specifically addressed the problems that beach passes would cause. Maybe the writers of this false letter should be asking their preferred candidates where they stand.
5. I have not proposed anything to discourage visitors to Rehoboth. Actually, I am the only candidate who is proposing specific ways to support our tourism economy, with a downtown master plan to improve the commercial properties and keep vibrant businesses downtown.

I do not know whether you agree or disagree with me on any of the above points, but I hope you can see that I have a clear vision, supported by specific proposals, for how to keep Rehoboth a thriving and balanced mix of homeowners, businesses and visitors. Again, thank you for giving me the chance to respond to this letter. I am contemplating a response to this letter in the days ahead, because it appears that others are receiving the same falsehoods. This certainly is not the way people should be behaving in an election in our community. Rehoboth is much better than this.

Sincerely,
Gary Glass