

September 8, 2011

Mr. J. Donato, Chair  
Business and Economic Development Committee  
Town of Woodbury  
281 Main Street South  
Woodbury, CT 06798

Hand delivered to Town Clerk

Dear Chairman Donato

We are just in receipt of your invitation to the fundraiser/debate proposed to take place on September 14, now just six days hence. We are very interested in publicly discussing the real issues facing our town with other candidates for office in the upcoming November election.

However, we find ourselves, in this case, asking why you would choose to so clearly illustrate the current state of dysfunction in our town government.

In the first place, and in this order for good reason, the idea that *any* committee of the municipal government has any place in producing or "sponsoring" a candidate debate is without credibility on its face. As members of this board are also either political candidates themselves or on the campaign committee for the Republican Selectman candidates, it defies any attempt at propriety.

Second, with the Business and Economic Development Committee in its final three months of tenure, your committee chooses to devote itself to a politically motivated "fundraiser" rather than turning its attention to the critical business or economic or development issues facing our town.

Thirdly, the idea that you, as BEDC chair, as a candidate and Mr. Cunningham as a candidate (both as members of the Stomski/Perkinson campaign committee) and the First Selectman himself as ex-officio member and a candidate, would allow this ill-conceived bit of petty political tomfoolery to proceed is disingenuous at best. And then to attempt to tie it up with a bow as a "fund raiser" for our neighbors is simply beyond the pale.

Lastly, to not inform, advise, consult – or for that matter even *invite* in a timely manner - any of the intended participants, punctuates the crippling absence of civility, communication and collaboration that dominates our Town Hall.

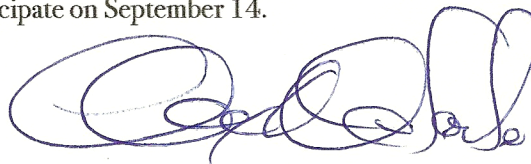
While not completely surprising to anyone, it is nonetheless sadly disappointing.

Let us be clear – we each look forward to any opportunity for an appropriately organized public discussion on the issues that face our town's future. We will do so at any event sponsored and run by a group without blatant bias in the result, such as the traditional League of Women Voter's/Woodbury Business Association, and with the town's interest as a first priority.

Accordingly, we will not participate on September 14.



George Hale (D)  
Selectman



Alex DeSorbo (U)  
Candidate, First Selectman



Martin Overton (R)  
Candidate Selectman