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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....42691

Notes from editor (not for publication):

Hi, Kathy! I'm slammed with letters and need to keep things tight. I've compressed a little, intending to do so without compromising your message. All the best, Jeff

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Police department deserves our support

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

####END SUBHED####

TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

I and many community members see the incredible work
our police department does in Brattleboro to make it safe and
hospitable for all people. As an employee working downtown, I
also know that the police *do not* issue trespassing citations
without good cause.

9 To even repeat that police officers no-trespass someone
10 for trying to stay warm is reprehensible. The Selectboard needs to
11 publicly apologize to our police department.

12 It is disturbing that a Selectboard member, Isaac Evan-
13 Franz, would take such an allegation and bring it to a board
14 meeting as if it were a proven fact. Drug addicts lie and blame
15 others — it comes with the disease. Our elected officials make
16 the situation worse and more divisive by accusing the police and
17 their behavior and tactics.

18 We are sinking this town. It is insanity and delusional to
19 think that offering more free camping equipment will do anything
20 helpful. It won't. Groundworks hands out free tents and sleeping
21 bags in a town without accessible camping or public facilities. It
22 is a setup for the people on the street, it is a setup for our police
23 department, and it is destroying our town.

24 Our riverbanks, trails, woods, and cemeteries are all
25 littered with clothing, tents, sleeping bags, and used needles. Not
26 to mention human waste. It's tragic, sad, and disgusting.

27 We need to thank the police and support them fully for
28 the extremely hard work they do keeping our community safe.
29 We need to back our police department and avoid adding to the
30 division that plagues this community.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

31

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

32

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####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

33

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

34

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

35

####END LOGLINE####