

—Slug:.....COMM-0854.opin.letter.b00_coughlin
—Contributor.....Annie Coughlin
—Contributor email.....annie@thecoughlins.net
—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....43172



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Blodgett: common-sense solutions for Brattleboro's
2 challenges

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

3

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 As someone who grew up here many years ago and
6 recently returned, I see a town that needs revitalization while
7 keeping the culture and charm that make it the Brattleboro we
8 love.

9 Brattleboro is quintessential Vermont, but it struggles
10 with crime, a large homeless population, out-of-control property

11 tax increases, limited housing options, and low economic
12 development.

13 As noted by Town Manager John Potter in his memo of
14 Feb. 12, 77% of the tax base in Brattleboro comes from
15 homeowners, while in other similar towns of our size and
16 population, it is closer to 50%. This needs to change!

17 We need a fresh perspective and a proactive Selectboard
18 to work on this issue.

19 Randy Blodgett has offered some common-sense
20 solutions, including practicing realistic fiscal management,
21 producing a strategic plan for attracting businesses, creating a
22 focus group to work on housing for everyone, and addressing the
23 day-to-day needs of the town.

24 Randy has 25 years of experience leveraging new
25 technology to bring innovative content for his clients and future
26 development plans for current establishments and startups.
27 deserves your vote for Selectboard on March 3.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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

28 The writer represents District 7 as a member of
29 Brattleboro's Representative Town Meeting.

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

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

30 0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

31

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

###BEGIN VIDEO###

32

###END VIDEO###

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

###BEGIN LOGLINE###

33

###END LOGLINE###