

—Slug:.....COMM-0854.opin.letter.b00_lear
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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....Opinions - Letters to the Editor - Special 2
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....43187



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 McLoughlin: Brattleboro is better for her service on
2 Selectboard

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

3

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

RE: "Mayo, Evans-Frantz, and Thurber: profiles in civility"

[Letters, Feb. 18]:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 Peter Elwell's commentary singled out Liz McLoughlin
6 for doing exactly what a Brattleboro Selectboard member is
7 elected to do: study the issues, understand the challenges facing
8 our town, and work with others to craft responsible solutions. Liz
9 has devoted years to this work, and Brattleboro is better for it.

10 She has been forthright about the strain placed on our
11 community by the disproportionate number of unhoused
12 Vermonters sheltered in local motels. Rather than turning away
13 from the problem, she has supported the collaborative
14 approaches adopted by the Selectboard — One Brattleboro and
15 the Downtown Safety Action Team — which bring first
16 responders and nonprofit service providers together.

17 Critics may object to this partnership, but many residents
18 can see that these efforts are helping individuals in crisis while
19 reducing conflict on our streets. As Liz often notes, economic
20 development depends on a foundation of safety and stability.

21 Yet for taking principled positions, Liz is attacked not on
22 policy but on a personal level. These personal accusations are
23 unfounded, corrosive to public discourse, and disrespectful of the
24 office she holds.

25 Calling her a bully is not only inaccurate; it echoes a
26 familiar tactic used to discourage women from speaking firmly or
27 holding views that others may disagree with. The message such
28 attacks send is clear: step out of line, and you will be targeted.
29 This kind of virtue signaling has taken an unfortunate turn.

30 Liz McLoughlin should be recognized for her steady
31 support of Brattleboro’s public safety initiatives and for the
32 economic vitality that can grow from them. She has earned the
33 community’s trust, and she deserves the opportunity to continue
34 this work.

35 Re-electing her to the Selectboard will allow her to keep
36 advancing strategies that are already making a difference for
37 Brattleboro.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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

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

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

39 ####BEGIN MAXISSUE####
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LINKS:

40 ####BEGIN LINKS####

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VIDEO:

41 ####BEGIN VIDEO####

 ####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

42 ####BEGIN LOGLINE####

 ####END LOGLINE####