

## First Selectman

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**From:** Jason LaChapelle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 8:59 AM  
**To:** First Selectman; Rosemary Coyle; Denise Turner; Deborah Bates  
**Cc:** Shannon Ramsby  
**Subject:** Unethical Behavior  
**Attachments:** Email.jpg

Selectmen,

Attached is an email that was given to me by a concerned citizen. It is an exchange between Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner, Gayle Ferman, Bernie Dennler, Mary Bylone, and Monica Egan. In it Rosemary, an elected member of the Board of Selectmen, initiates an email with the chairman of the DTC in order to track citizens who speak during citizen comments in a way that she interprets as “supports Andreas”.

It is one thing to use the tools designed for campaigning, such as canvassing apps, but it’s another thing entirely for an elected official to be tracking citizens who speak during meetings in favor of their political rival. Citizens should be able to speak freely without being tracked on some secret political list. While I cannot say with certainty that this list has nefarious purposes, it certainly begs some questions with some potentially rather concerning answers.

Is the Town Clerk using her seat of privilege, with privileged access to voter information, to help her chosen political party track political dissidents? Is a member of the Board of Selectmen using her seat to help the political party she Vice Chairs track political dissidents? Are the two Democrat members of the Board of Selectmen using this list when deciding which citizens get appointed to boards and commissions and which don’t? Did a member of the Public Safety Committee use his seat to help track those who support the political candidate he is actively campaigning against?

What does it mean when Monica Egan responds to Rosemary with the full names of citizens and says “in case we ever cross paths”? Why is it important to know if someone supports Andreas or not when you “cross paths” with them? Are our elected town leaders using who someone supports to determine how they treat them? Why are the directions to someone’s house important? In one instance Rosemary provides an apartment number of the citizen in question and in another she provides precise directions to that citizen’s home. How do the directions to someone’s house correlate with the comment about “crossing paths” with those citizens?

For an elected official to initiate the tracking of citizens who speak during citizen comments in favor of their political rival is not only an extreme erosion of the public trust and concerningly unethical, it is also a violation of our citizen’s First Amendment rights to petition their government without fear of retribution. I cannot find enough words to express my disappointment in our elected town leaders and candidates who are actively partaking in such behavior. Political lists in this nation have never worked out in a way that benefits the people and that’s a lesson our elected officials shouldn’t need to be reminded of.

I am asking that every member of our board attend Thursday night’s meeting in person not only so we can address this issue as a board, but so those members who partook in this can address their constituents and explain why they are keeping a list of those who support their political rival.

I have the unredacted version of the email should you want it.

Jason LaChapelle  
Board of Selectmen

## First Selectman

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**From:** Jason LaChapelle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 9:13 AM  
**To:** First Selectman  
**Cc:** Rosemary Coyle; Denise Turner; Deborah Bates; Shannon Ramsby  
**Subject:** Re: Unethical Behavior

I mean to add this but missed it. My bad!

Andreas, can you please add an agenda item to Thursday's agenda to open a possible investigation into this matter?

Thanks!

Jason LaChapelle  
Board of Selectmen



Sent: Friday, July 8, 2022 2:35 PM

To: Monica Egan

Cc: Rosemary Coyle; Denise Turner; Bernie Dennler; Gayle Furman

Subject: Re: Need to mark the following on the voter list as 5 - From last nights citizen comments - supports Andreas

I updated Chris' VAN list

On Jul 8, 2022, at 1:50 PM, Monica Swyden <[monicacegan@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:monicacegan@[REDACTED])> wrote:

These are added to our Colchester list. It's Tim Crowell, Sara Estevez and Erin Howes in case we ever cross paths.

Mary, as we discussed, these need to get into Chris's list. You might mess around with exporting as excel and doing a bulk upload.

On Fri, Jul 8, 2022 at 11:25 AM <[rosemarycoyle@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:rosemarycoyle@[REDACTED])> wrote:

1. Erin House - [REDACTED]
2. Paul Hanrahan - [REDACTED] - R
3. Tim ? - [REDACTED]
4. Andrea De Paola - [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] House on [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] street -R
5. Sara E ? - [REDACTED]

Can we look these up and complete info with party affiliation and mark to skip in van.

Thanks,