

Clifton not above the law

The City of Clifton, including this Council and any city employee, is required to follow the law which includes the existing ordinances of the city of Clifton.

Code #395-4(f) states: "all concrete sidewalks shall be at least 4 feet wide" and Code #395-5 states: "owners to lay and maintain sidewalks - shall at his/her own cost and expense, well and sufficiently lay the sidewalks." At no time did this current city council amend either ordinance.

The city of Clifton recently went out to bid for installation of sidewalks on the east side of Dwasline Road. Sealed bids will be opened on Oct. 13 at 10 a.m. The sidewalk plans, prepared by Neglia Engineering, reveal several interesting points. First, the sidewalks will be 4 feet in width except for the following notation at 42 and 48 West Parkway (both addressed back up to Dwasline Road).

"Existing vegetation overhangs onto proposed sidewalk area. Vegetation to be trimmed and sidewalk width may be reduced from 4 feet to 3 feet."

This clearly is against the city ordinance. Can anyone guess who owns these two properties?

Cheryl (42) and David Gross (48), the same David Gross who led the fight for sidewalks and signed the endorsement letters (which were sent out to the Orthodox community in 2014 and 2015 council elections) for the four council members who voted to install these same sidewalks.

Additionally, according to the Neglia survey and plans, most of this vegetation (large bushes) are planted in the city's right of way. To recap, the city of Clifton is violating the law for Gross. Therefore, these plans are illegal and the bid must be rejected.

These plans are also in direct violation of Code #395-5 in that the city of Clifton is paying for the installation of these sidewalks and not the homeowners. The council's Dec. 1, 2015 vote (Grabowski, Kolodziej, Murphy and Eagler voted in the affirmative) to install sidewalks (at the cost of taxpayers and not the Dwasline homeowners) was an illegal vote and further the city has no legal authority to go out for bid for these sidewalks. At no

time did this council amend Code #395-5. Despite this code, the plans are in further violation of the actual Council's vote in that the motion made was for the "installation of sidewalks on the easterly side of Dwasline Road from the Passaic boundary line (which is at West/South Parkway) to Allwood Road." The bid plans show sidewalks will be installed in Passaic (from Terhune Avenue to West/South Parkway) and will stop at Belmont Avenue and will not extend to Allwood Road. At no time, did this council amend or negate its original motion and vote for these new facts. Therefore, these plans are illegal and the bid must be rejected.

How fitting was my letter to the editor in which I quoted the oath of office each one of our council members swore to uphold. To recap, this oath does not allow any council member to break the law for any one person or special interest group. Neglia Engineering prepared these plans on "someone from the city of Clifton's direction" - someone from the city instructed Neglia to reduce the sidewalk width on the Gross' properties from 4 feet to 3 feet. The public has a right to know why and who gave Neglia this order. Therefore, I am calling on the Passaic County prospector and the New Jersey Attorney General to begin an immediate investigation into this.

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