

10/10/2019 P R E S S R E L E A S E:

The attacks continue! Below is my latest - and final - response to these attacks! I want to focus my time and energy on talking issues directly with the voters not political gimmicks.

It comes as no surprise to me that my opponents continue to attack me personally. Desperate times call for desperate measures. I ran for office two years ago and was elected to represent our third district and then soon thereafter I aspired to run for mayor. However, taking such a step requires a complete self-inventory. So, I sat with the people closest to me and we talked about what a personal toll it would be; and, I talked at length with my kids. My brothers Dino, Marc, and Al were all for it- everybody was on board. Even after all that I must admit that my self-examination was the most difficult part. I knew that I was ready for this challenge and I reflected on so many things, including the pride I felt so many years ago wearing the East Haven basketball uniform. I cherished representing our town then, and I was excited to lead it again- but this time as its mayor. Yet I also knew that I would be vulnerable to deeply personal attacks because of my past financial difficulties.

Never being one to cower, or to back down, I decided that I would not be overwhelmed by my own issues, but that I would embrace them and be frank about them. So, my response to you Mr. Parente is that I have done just that numerous times since my announcement. Mr. Parente is unfortunately trying to turn this campaign into an obnoxious exercise when the choice to attack personally was made.

As for Steve Tracy, his silence regarding this behavior speaks volumes about what is acceptable behavior to him. And I will say this, both Mr. Parente and Mr. Tracey have significant personal issues in their respective backgrounds. Issues that for some is ammunition for a political garbage campaign. In the face of calls to use this evidence, I have elected not to. To be blunt, both should be grateful, as I have no desire to embarrass anyone. If they feel the need to discuss their issues with the taxpayers, that should be solely their decision, and on their terms.

I, however, have chosen to make this campaign about accessibility, transparency, honesty, humility, and what is best for the taxpayers of East Haven. Moving forward, I will not continue to engage my opponents in their personal attacks on me and challenge them to talk about the issues. I will engage with the voters of our town at their doors, as I've been doing for months, and let them decide who is best qualified and has put forth real solutions to move our town forward.

Joe Carfora