



*Village of Tivoli
Deputy Mayor
Bryan F. Cranna*

November 6, 2008

The Honorable Harry Colgan
30 Clay Hill Road
Tivoli, NY 12583

Dear Councilman Colgan:

As a follow up to our conversation of October 28th regarding the public forum that I hosted regarding drug awareness in the Village of Tivoli I have a few comments and concerns.

First, the forum was very informative and I am pleased to have had the opportunity to host such an event. We are beginning to plan a second forum with the Red Hook School District, Village of Red Hook Police Department, and the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department.

I was, however, disappointed and surprised with your reaction to our hosting the forum in Tivoli. Your question to me: "Is this the kind of image we want to portray in Tivoli," is very alarming.

With all due respect, I am more concerned about the welfare and safety of those I represent than an image. I hold regular office hours in village hall, and I make it a point to talk to residents regularly as I walk and travel throughout the village. One of the issues that has been regularly brought to my attention is a concern regarding drug uses and sale that is unfortunately taking place in our village. While our community may not be different than many others in this regard, we would be doing a disservice to the residents and families of Tivoli, if we did not address this issue.

This is not the first time that the Village of Tivoli has participated in such an event. Several years ago, now-Councilwoman Micki Strawinksi, organized a drug awareness forum at Red Hook High School. Many wanted to avoid the issue and ignore its occurrence, but Micki was right to force the conversation then, and we must not avoid this serious concern today.

www.bryancranna.com

Nearly ten years ago, the Village launched its VICTORY Initiative as a means of focusing our community on the need to address the issues of abuse and addiction while empowering young people to confront this issue hand-in-hand with their village government. Our neighborhood watch efforts have also been geared to ensuring the safety of our residents. This is not a new approach for Tivoli.

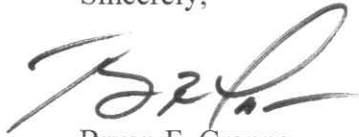
As to your comment that this forum would simply cause alarm in the village, the alarm already exists. As the proud father of two young boys, I too share the concern that families have with drug deals possibly occurring on our streets, in our neighborhoods, and in our recreation park. Just as you articulated concern about the rash of home break-in during your 2005 campaign for Town Council, I would hope you could display the same degree of concern as a Councilman, representing all of Red Hook.

As elected officials we must be willing to admit that there is a problem, and we ought to do what we can to address it. The forum we held is a step in the right direction. I hope you will join me in acknowledging the problem and join us for our second program. Your constructive participation in this effort would add to our ability to confront this problem.

I am grateful to the Village of Red Hook Police Department and the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department for the protection that they provide this village. Their service is invaluable.

Our children are our most precious resource. I have dedicated my time in office over the last five and a half years to doing what I can to ensure that this community is welcoming, accessible, and safe. Your support of this work would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Bryan F. Cranna
Deputy Mayor

Cc: Mayor Thomas Cordier
Village of Tivoli Board of Trustees
Mayor Dave Cohen
Village of Red Hook Board of Trustees
Supervisor Sue Crane
Town of Red Hook Board