

Lisa Hoffman Murray 24 Echo Valley Rd.
Ken Fowler 266 Pitcher Lane Red Hook

To our fellow citizens of Red Hook,

After multiple years of disappointment, and even disgust, Ken Fowler and I decided to send you this letter concerning the authoritarian one-party rule of our Town government. Both Ken and I have been residents of Red Hook for over 50 years, our parents having settled here when we were both young children. We grew up in Red Hook, raised our families in Red Hook and have stayed here in Red Hook our entire lives. Simply put, we love and care about our town and always will.

Over the years as Red Hook grew and prospered we've witnessed a Town government that was run efficiently, honestly and fairly by diverse Town Boards under the leadership of Town Supervisors like Democrat Jack Gilfeather and Republicans like Sam Lore and Sue Crane. Our Town government served the best interests of everyone, not just a chosen few, let alone the personal interest of a Town Supervisor who leads a one-party rubber stamp Board. We are currently witnessing the damaging effects of one-party, one man rule of our town.

One of our more serious concerns is evident in the census #s of 2010 as opposed to the census results of 2020. The population of Red Hook dropped from 11,319 to 9,953. Our young people can no longer afford to stay and raise their families here. Struggling middle class families cannot afford to stay in, or move to our town and sadly, seniors have been forced to relocate due to the excessive taxation that we're all forced to endure. And, needless to say, a 13% decline in local consumers hurts every small business in town. Unfortunately, some of the 1% among us who can easily afford to move here and stay here applaud the loss of our fellow townspeople and would probably like to see more of us forced out of "their" town. If one-party rule continues in Red Hook, they'll be a happy bunch.

Our Town Supervisor, Robert McKeon, a real estate expert from Brooklyn, owns nearly 600 acres of Red Hook land. Some praise him as a land preservationist, but there's much more to that story. By claiming agricultural exemptions on 10 separate parcels he is not required to pay taxes based on the actual appraised value of his properties. Just one glaring example – he owns a parcel on Feller Newmark Rd. of 162 acres. The actual value is approximately \$1,000,000.00, but he pays taxes on only \$87,200 of that value. Totally legal, but the other 99% of us are making up the difference to meet the Town's budget requirements, either in our property taxes or rent. Is he a dedicated preservationist or a savvy land speculator engaged in a grand slam land scam at our expense? The total currently appraised value of his parcels is roughly \$5,000,000.00 and he pays taxes on a very small fraction of that amount. These parcels can eventually be sold to other millionaires that will come to Red Hook and build huge estates. Millions to be made while many of us struggle to maintain our modest lifestyle in a town that we love.

ELECTION DAY IS NEARLY HERE! PLEASE COME OUT AND VOTE TUES. NOV. 7TH. Local Republicans have put up a bi-partisan slate of qualified common sense candidates that will put an end to one-party rule. Supervisor candidate, Norman Greig is a Democrat. Town Board candidate, Gary Kowalsky is a Republican and Town Board candidate, Anthony Formisano is a true independent. ALSO, County Legislator, Kristofer Munn has proven himself to be a total embarrassment to our town and he needs to be gone. PLEASE write-in DAVID MERGENDAHL for County Legislator. Dave will never violate the County ethics code or become dysfunctional.

Thank you for reading and caring about our town.