

Rev. Dr. Wm. Marcus Small
President of the Black Clergy
Council of Englewood, Teaneck and Vicinity

Rabbi Shmuel Goldin
Congregation Ahavath Torah
Englewood, NJ

Archbishop Philip Saliba
Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America

November 1, 2006

To the Candidates,

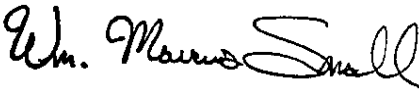
We are concerned members of the clergy of the Englewood community. We are very proud of the strong and long standing relationship between the diverse members of our community and are sensitive to conditions which might cause potential harm to it. It has come to our attention that incendiary words, possibly maligning the reputation and integrity of one of our community leaders, were tossed about recently, just weeks before an election at a press conference held by a candidate for Englewood municipal office. We do not believe that these types of comments have any place in an Englewood election and we urge the candidates and the members of our community not to travel the wrong path.

We believe that those who aspire to be our leaders should do all they can to promote peace and strong positive relations between the members of our community and not act in a manner that may lead to serious divisions.


The timing of the events complained of, that are the source of the recent accusations, makes clear that any problem could have been aired and properly discussed over the past four months. If a problem needs to be addressed, we urge that it be handled in a sensitive and diplomatic manner and not used as a tool to divide our community. The fact that accusations were only made at a media event, weeks before an important election, raises concern. A sensationalist approach to a serious subject has the potential to create racial and religious tension. This is something that our community leaders in particular have a responsibility to avoid. To act otherwise is shameful.

We urge candidates to use the final days of their respective campaigns to set a proper tone for our highly diverse city. We all have a large investment in our community, whose most valuable asset is the good relations among all its people.

Sincerely,


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