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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Contact Joann Denton 732-890-1545

Marlboro Republicans Pledge Reforms To Protect Children

Marlboro, NJ- In the wake of the [news](#) of [a guilty plea](#) by a male Marlboro Recreation Department camp counselor for sexting with pre-teen and teen-aged girls in his care, and the ensuing cover up and news blackout over the issue by the Township, the Marlboro Republican candidates for Mayor and Council issued the following statement:

“The news that four young girls were subjected to graphic sexual images shared with them by a Township employee while participating in a Township sponsored programs is deplorable,” said former Board of Education member John Dwyer, a candidate for Marlboro council. “Councilman Mike Scalea was a member of the Recreation Committee when this incident occurred. He has failed the people of Marlboro on the most fundamental level--the protection of our children and grandchildren. He failed to take corrective action. Instead, Scalea stood by in silence while the Recreation Committee, the mayor and Township Council let the employee finish working at the camp with younger children. They kept the incident secret for over a year. “

“This is crazy! The Hornik administration’s focus has been to protect the future of the camp counselor who victimized children in his care and to avoid a scandal that would reflect poorly on the administration,” said Sui Alex, candidate for Township Council. “The right thing to do is to focus on the young girls who were harmed and their futures while making sure such conduct never happens again.”

“I’m particularly concerned that Councilman Mike Scalea was a member of the Recreation Committee when this incident occurred,” said Ira Goldberg, candidate for mayor, “Scalea is either complicit in allowing the employee to continue to work with children after his actions became known or he is not fully engaged in the responsibilities he has taken on for the people of Marlboro.”

Goldberg, Alex and Dwyer pledged to make the following reforms to the Recreation Department should they be elected on November 3rd:

- 1) The Marlboro Recreation Summer Camp will be conducted in accordance with the New Jersey Youth Camp Standards that private camps are required to adhere to. These standards include an investigation into the backgrounds of all employees and potential employees who interact with children.
- 2) A thorough review of all Recreation Department and Summer Camp employees will be completed before the 2016 Summer Camp commences. Appropriate disciplinary action and assignment changes will be enforced.

- 3) Summer Camp employment will be offered to Marlboro teachers and retired teachers who know the campers and are trained to care for and educate our children and keep them safe.
- 4) Marlboro Township will adopt the Monmouth County government's personnel policies regarding Sexual Harassment including ongoing anti-harassment training.

"The silence on this issue by Mayor Hornik and all the Council Members is unfortunate," Goldberg said. "Hornik is acting like a lawyer avoiding liability. He should be acting like an accountable leader. He should be taking action to ensure our children and grandchildren are safe when participating in Township events."

"I am extremely disappointed that my opponents, Councilwoman Randi Marder and Councilman Scalea have been silent on this issue," Allex said. "There is nothing more important than the safety of our children."