



TOWN OF BELMONT
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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

DAVID J. KALE

Date: April 3, 2015

ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

PHYLLIS L. MARSHALL

To: Belmont Citizens
From: Board of Selectmen
Subject: Community Concerns on Override Question for April 7, 2015

Dear Belmont neighbors and residents –

It has been brought to our attention that there have been instances of bullying and inappropriate actions taken by individuals expressing their opinions about positions on the Override Question that are troublesome. The Selectmen want to remind everyone that our responsibility as citizens of Belmont is to work together despite our political or philosophical differences of opinion. **Let's use this as a teachable moment to demonstrate to our students and families the true benefits of democracy and community-mindedness.** Creating divisions and heightening tensions are truly not helpful to anyone.

The Ballot Question is important and a positive discussion is necessary to share information and address questions so that individuals can make the correct decision for themselves about our community. This discussion is appreciated and expected. However, it is also expected that individual opinions are allowed to be shared without abuse or retaliation. The Selectmen will faithfully implement the will of the voters – whatever that may be. However, we must come together as a community after the vote to assure the best outcomes for our town, our students and all residents. **This requires respect, understanding and cooperation from all citizens on either side of this issue.**

The Board of Selectmen asks that members of the community participate in respectful conversation and appropriate expression of opinion which allow for civil differences that are protected by the democratic structure of our community. Regardless of the decision made by the voters on April 7, 2015, the community of Belmont must continue to work together. Please do your share to lower the volume and to respect the other side.

Thank you.

Andrés T. Rojas – Chair

Sami S. Baghdady – Vice-Chair

Mark A. Paolillo - Selectman