

TRUMBULL ETHICS COMMISSION
HEARING IN PUBLIC

November 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM

REVISED AGENDA

Join the meeting online:

<https://zoom.us/j/97085398940?pwd=bE1WZ3JLWVBFM1J5OVdkZnQyUjMvQT09>

Webinar ID: 970 8539 8940

Password: 526139

Join by telephone:

(312) 626-6799 or (833) 548-0276 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 970 8539 8940

- I. To approve Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2020.
- II. To consider Complaint #1-2020 at a Hearing in Public.
- III. Such other matters as may properly be brought before the Commission.

Attachments/Exhibits:

1. Complaint #1-2020
2. TEC Letter to Respondent of Finding of Probable Cause
3. Transcript of May 9, 2020 Meeting of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee
4. Clip of Meeting of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee – May 9, 2020
 - Redistricting Committee 05 09 20 Part 1 of 2:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxWitUNIYB8&t=1s>
 - Clip begins at 21:12 and ends at 25:54.
5. Entire Meeting of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee – May 9, 2020
 - Redistricting Committee 05 09 20 Part 1 of 2:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxWitUNIYB8&t=1s>
 - Redistricting Committee 05 09 20 Part 2 of 2:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3VC5x_xRmc

Thomas E. Lee
Chairman

Dated: October 20, 2020

Chairman of the Ethics Commission
c/o Trumbull Town Clerk
Trumbull Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, CT 06611

I am submitting an Ethics Complaint against Mr. Tony Scinto for defamatory comments that he made about me during the Saturday, May 9, 2020 public meeting of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee.

Mr. Scinto has made similar comments at prior public meetings; however, this is the first time that his comments were either captured on community television, recorded in the official minutes, or written about in the local news.

I request that Mr. Scinto's comments be removed from official video and minutes. I also request that Mr. Scinto retract his comments and offer me a public apology before either the Trumbull Town Council or the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee.

Under **Section 2-523, Applicability** of the Trumbull Code of Ethics, Mr. Scinto is an elected Town official of the Trumbull Town Council and an appointed Town official of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee. He represents District 2 on the Town Council and is the Republican appointee to the Redistricting Committee.

Under **Section 2-524, Standards of service** of the Trumbull Code of Ethics, Mr. Scinto violated sub-section (a) by failing to discharge his duties conscientiously, impartially and to the best of his ability, placing the good of the Town above any personal or partisan considerations.

He also violated sub-section (d) by failing to conduct himself with propriety, discharge his duties impartially and fairly, or make any effort toward attaining and maintaining the highest standards of performance.

Under **Section 2-526, Treatment of public** of the Trumbull Code of Ethics, Mr. Scinto violated sub-section (a) by failing to treat me in a courteous manner and sub-section (c) by failing to treat me with either tact or courtesy during his comments.

Furthermore, under **Section 11, Standards of Conduct for Members of the Council** of the Trumbull Town Council Rules of Procedure, Mr. Scinto violated paragraph 2 by failing to follow the Code of Ethics of the Town of Trumbull and by failing to treat me in a fair manner.

Please refer to the Trumbull Community Television recording:
<https://vod.trumbullps.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/3748>

Starting at approximately minute 21 and continuing for a few minutes, Mr. Scinto begins to talk about my skill as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) professional and claims to have been waiting for “payback”. He continues to claim that I am both a “hack” and “no good for the town”.

Mr. Scinto also claims that I published a map on the internet showing false data and that this map somehow caused his insurance agent to contact him concerned that there is a river next to his house.

All of Mr. Scinto’s comments and claims about me, my work, and the volunteer work that I have done for the Town of Trumbull are false and without merit.

As a GIS professional with over 27 years of experience, my reputation and standing within my profession are exemplary. I have worked at all levels of spatial data creation, analysis, and presentation within a variety of industries and across multiple domains. One common thread throughout my career has been my work with hydrologic and flood datasets.

As a volunteer for the Town of Trumbull, I was appointed to the original GIS Study Group by First Selectman Ray Baldwin and am currently a member of the Trumbull Land Acquisition Committee. I have created spatial analysis and cartographic presentations for many boards and commissions over the years, including Planning and Zoning, Conservation Commission, and the Nature and Arts Center. I have helped install and configure desktop mapping software and various mapping services for town employees. I have also helped neighborhood organizations with a very technical analysis of the proposed Cell Tower on Edison Avenue and demographic neighborhood study of the Fuel Cell in Nichols.

As an advocate for the Town of Trumbull’s new Geographic Information System, I created a series of teaching materials and explained mapping and spatial analysis to multiple elementary and middle school classrooms. I have also created map and compass, geocaching, and letterboxing courses at the Nature Center and Old Mine Park and have worked with multiple Boy Scout and Girl Scout units.

I created the map that Mr. Scinto presents during the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Meeting. If I recall correctly, it was an early draft and one of a series of maps that I created for Planning and Zoning and the Conservation Commission showing flood and related hydrologic layers in the town’s new GIS system at that time. The map depicts Flood Hazard Areas and related features in one of the more flood prone areas of Trumbull within the lower Pequannock River watershed. The legend shows a mixture of Regulatory Floodway, 1.0% Annual Flood Risk, 0.2% Annual Flood Risk, and related data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other sources.

While I acquired the data being presented, chose the cartographic presentation, and created the map, I did not create or edit the underlying data that is being displayed.

I have attached two sample maps for your review:

- The first sample shows a map captured from the Town of Trumbull GIS website which is hosted by the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council (GBRC), CT Metro COG.
<https://metrokog.mapxpress.net/Trumbull>
- The second sample shows a map captured from the FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) Viewer.
<https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd&extent=-73.23449725143466,41.22688204317486,-73.20484274856523,41.24301849078363>

While the cartographic presentation differs in all three maps, each map is showing the same underlying data that was used to create the map that Mr. Scinto is referencing.

I have tried to follow the process under **Section 2-550, Case procedure** of the Trumbull Code of Ethics to the best of my ability. Please feel to reach out to me directly with any questions or clarification.

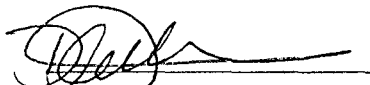
Respectfully submitted, 5/28/2020:



Richard W. White
169 Church Hill Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
203-561-6045 (m)
rww@waldengeographic.com

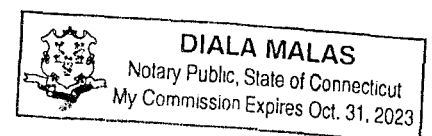
State of Connecticut
County of Fairfield ss. Trumbull (Town/City)

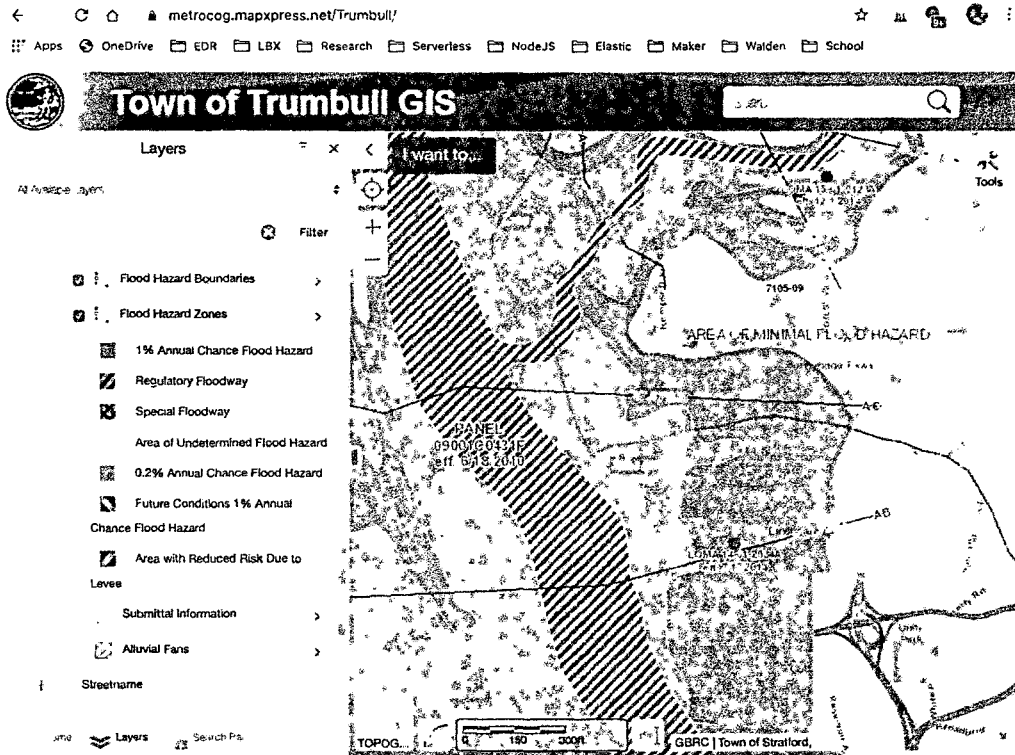
Subscribed and sworn before me this 28th day of May, 2020.

 Signature of Notary Public

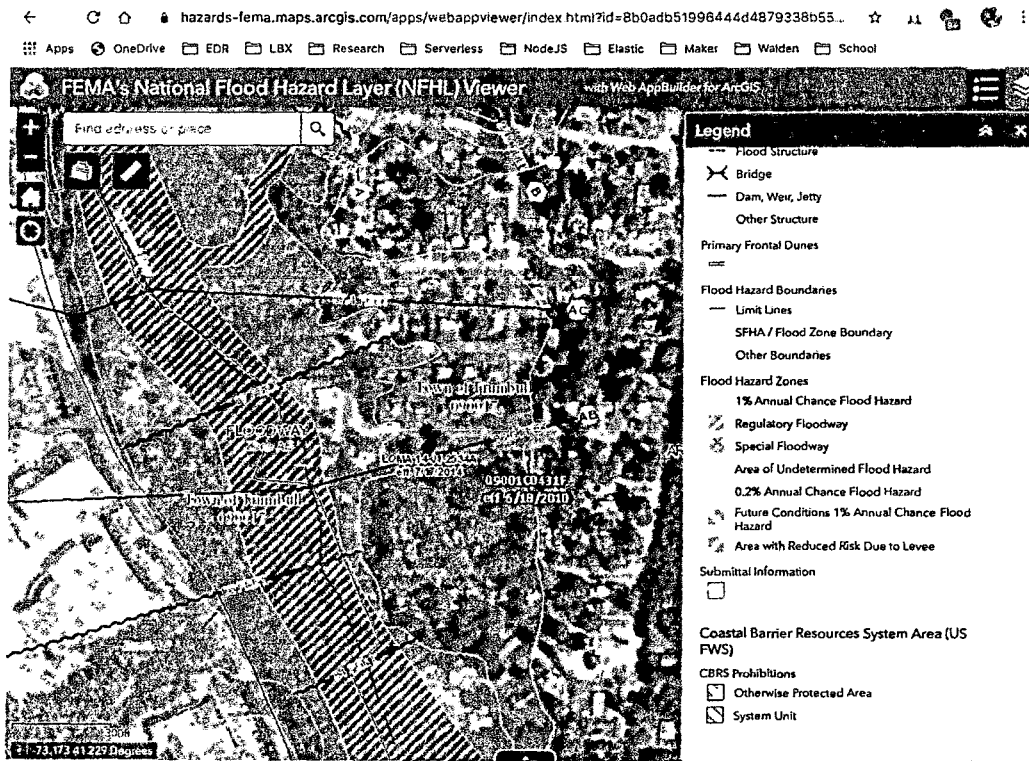
My Commission Expires: 10/31/2023

Diala Malas Printed name of Notary Public





Sample 1 Town of Trumbull GIS



Sample 2 FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer

Trumbull Ethics Commission
Trumbull Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, CT 06611

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June 15, 2020

Mr. Tony Scinto
32 Lindberg Drive
Trumbull, CT 06611

Re: Ethics Complaint #1-2020

Dear Mr. Scinto:

Enclosed please find a copy of Verified Complaint #1-2020 dated May 28, 2020.

The Trumbull Ethics Commission has determined, pursuant to Article V, Section D of the Code of Ethics of the Town of Trumbull, that it has jurisdiction in the above entitled matter.

At its meeting of June 11, 2020, the Commission found probable cause that the Respondent, Tony Scinto, violated the Trumbull Code of Ethics as stated in the Complaint. A hearing in public will be held on the Complaint at a time and place to be determined.

At that time, you or your attorney shall be entitled to present defenses, proofs and witnesses.

Inquiries may be directed to Attorney James Nugent, counsel for the Commission.

Very truly yours,



Thomas E. Lee
Chairman, Trumbull Ethics Commission

TEL:bk
Enclosure

Rev. 8/02

Transcript of a portion of the May 9, 2020 meeting of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee

The meeting is available on TCTV's YouTube page in two parts. (TCTV's main viewing page is not functioning due to the Video on Demand server being down.)

<https://youtu.be/PxWitUNIYB8>

https://youtu.be/l3VC5x_xRmc

Begin transcript at 21:12

Tony Scinto: Well, since you opened up the door about skill, okay, let's talk about the person who drew this map. I've been waitin' a long time for payback on this one. Okay? This is the same guy who drew this map [holds up map].

Tom Kelly: Can you hold on one second, Tony.

Tony Scinto: No no no no, I'm talk--, no, I'm talking now. Be quiet. Okay?

Tom Kelly: You can't, you can't--

Tony Scinto: I'm talking!

Tom Kelly: You can't talk about--

Tony Scinto: I've got it right here!

Tom Kelly: That's not appropriate decorum.

Tony Scinto: No, you see this? This is the guy who drew this, this is Richard White, who drew this map of my house, put a river next to it, okay, and then he put it on the Internet. And then my insurance guy called me and says, why is there a river next to your house? This is the same guy! Okay? The same guy. You trust this guy? I don't.

Tom Kelly: Yes, I certainly do.

Tony Scinto: I don't. I've got the evidence right here, Tom, look!

Tom Kelly: You can't—

Tony Scinto: You wanna see it?

Tom Kelly: You can't talk at a town meeting—

Tony Scinto: This is decorum! No!

Tom Kelly: About payback. That's just not appropriate.

Tony Scinto: No, this guy's, this guy's, this guy's no good for the town, he's a hack. Okay? He's nothing but a hack.

Laurel Anderson: Tony, may I – may I—

Tony Scinto: I've had enough of this guy, for ten years I've been listening about, the the the lines drawn, who did what wrong, who's blaming who, instead of just, it seems some people want to move backwards and some people want to move forward.

Laurel Anderson: Okay, Tony—

Tony Scinto: It seems Tom, you're in the backwards, moving backwards time. Okay?

Laurel Anderson: Tony, so, we have a map in front of us, and I have—this is Laurel, by the way—I have been requesting from all of you, bring—bring me what you have. I don't care who it's from, I mean I do, hopefully it's a skilled map, a well thought out map, but I have asked several times, I think at almost every meeting, um, for people to bring us what you have. So this is what I was able to come up with, um, from a volunteer. I would be very happy to see, uh, an alternative if you have one. So if you can come up with one, we now have a little bit more time, and we'll be able to go back, and—and compare them and see where perhaps it makes more sense. Um, but, you know, please—please do that if—if you can, excuse me. (Coughs.) If you can, but um, I think it is probably not wise to denigrate someone at a public meeting. Um, so, um, you know, uh, but in any event—

Tony Scinto: You know, Laurel, you know Laurel, you know what, that's true, okay? And I'm not dis—I'm not going to disagree with you on that. But I've been denigrated, okay, I've been lied about, and then I've got stuff here that I've been sitting on for decades, about, uh, I mean, the guy put a map on an Internet of my house and then posted on the Internet, and the insurance guy calls me and he goes why is there a river next to your house? I go well, I don't know. I looked at the map and I go who drew this? And then I called Richard White and he goes, oh, I was just joking around. Oh really? Really Richard, you were joking around? And then I get the maps from him, and I'm like, are you kidding me? And then we're using maps, you know forget about, that you got to wait for the Census, you know I agree with, I agree with we should wait for the Census, but I know you guys want to move through on this process, so I'm trying to be as best I can is look at the map.

Laurel Anderson: Okay, so—

Tony Scinto: This whole thing was about voter turnout, and the representation, like Tom said. And—and driving times. But, if you're gonna—

Laurel Anderson: There were several issues.

Tony Scinto: Listen, I guarantee you, if you went with that map right now, and you went to go vote, in District 7, at the next municipal election, you'll have less than a thousand people show up to vote. That's just my prediction. Because if you go back in time, when I was in District 7, if you got 1,200 people to show up, at a municipal election in District 7, going back to 2007 when I was standing there, okay, you were lucky. I have the numbers. Okay? And that's why I don't understand, they got more people, this area has become more of rentals, for college students.

Laurel Anderson: So, Tony, I'm going to ask you again, how would you suggest, then, changing the map? I mean, I—

Tony Scinto: Well, again, we're change—again, I understand, listen, the best way to do it is, like, what Bill's—you need to wait until the Census is done by you guys are not going to do that. So, again, I'm only one person.

End transcript at 25:54.