



Beth Hernandez <bethhernandez.clerk@gmail.com>

Thank you

Mary Kate Mikulskis <durkinmk@gmail.com>
To: bhernandez@stjohnin.com

Fri, Dec 3, 2021 at 8:57 PM

Dear Ms. Hernandez,

This evening was our family's first time at the tree festival at Prairie West Park. That park is one of our kids' favorites, and seeing it in all its holiday splendor felt really special.

I am so sorry about all the negativity you have been facing. Regardless of my personal feelings about that ONE tree (which are irrelevant), I was really impressed by the overall display in the park, with so much hard work and care evident, and it was so great to see so many local businesses and organizations represented. The several "in memory of" trees were especially touching.

Thank you for rising above the fray and striving to spread holiday cheer.

Merry Christmas to you and your family and to ****everyone**** in our tri-town community.

Sincerely,
Mary Kate Mikulskis

2750 Camelot Dr.

To whom it may concern:

12/06/2021

I want to congratulate Beth Hernandez and the Clerk Treasurers staff, public works, parks department for all the hard work and planning that went into executing this awesome Christmas event.

I was disappointed to see the public reaction directed directly towards Beth Hernandez because of the "Unmask the children" tree.

Beth I fully support you and your office for standing tall and taking the heat for a decorated tree that was included in the event and not suppressing any person(s) freedom of expression/speech. I appreciate that you made the decision in not removing the tree even in great controversy. It was amazing to see your humility and taking ownership for an event and doing it with great professionalism and leadership for the Town of SJ.

Jeff Slaven

9153 E Springhill Dr
SJ



59 PM

2021-12-07 TC EXHIBIT 3

Gmail - Sad.

Gmail

Beth Hernandez <bethhernandez.clerk@gmail.com>

ad.

342 WOODBRIDGE DR. LOWELL, IN

ROGER LIS <rogerd8235@aol.com>
To: bhernandez@stjohnin.com

Mon, Dec 6, 2021 at 10:24 PM

Hope you have better judgement next year. I hope no unmasked children die of Covid before Christmas. Very sad that the unmask the children tree was allowed to remain and finished in the top three. Watch the news. The resurgence of Covid will be worse than the onset.

Roger D. Lis



2021-12-07 TC EXHIBIT 4

Beth Hernandez

From: ROGER LIS <rogerd8235@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 10:52 PM
To: Beth Hernandez
Subject: Wow. Your are a supporter of unmask the kids. CBS HAS YOU ON THE LATE NEWS

Roger D. Lis

Beth Hernandez

From: ROGER LIS <rogerd8235@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 10:50 PM
To: Beth Hernandez
Subject: CBS got you lying





Beth Hernandez <bethhernandez.clerk@gmail.com>

Christmas in the Park Event

1 message

sharon molis <sharmis@yahoo.com>
To: bhernandez@stjohnin.com

Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 10:42 AM

I would like to voice my support for the Christmas in the Park Event in St. John. It's one of the few events the town has for families and has become a beautiful tradition. Beth Hernandez and her crew have done a beautiful job of bringing a wonderful event to the residents of St. John. It has always been a positive experience for all those who attend to enjoy the trees, special visitors like the Paw Patrol, Grinch, Minions, and especially Santa. The overwhelming majority of St. John residents support and love this event and the joy it brings, especially to the children.

The controversial tree is just that, A TREE! It's not a political statement but rather an expression of one family's opinion of the effectiveness of masking. Even the experts have differing opinions on this issue. I've always thought St. John was a town where everyone is entitled to their own opinion and voicing that opinion is a matter of free speech. Do we really want to become a town where free speech is squelched and the few rule the majority? Many who expressed their negative opinions on social media were either recent transplants or people from other states who know nothing about St. John. A simple click on a few random posters revealed 2 from Arizona, 1 Pennsylvania, 1 from Massachusetts, and 2 from New York. This speaks volumes as to which side is turning this into a political issue. I'm sure there were many more but I became increasingly angry as I was checking them. Leave the tree up, anyone who dislikes can simply vote for another tree and ignore it. That's the best way to express one's opinion.

I would also like to express my disappointment in the Town Council and the Town Manager for their lack of support for this event. What a great opportunity they missed to get to know some of the families in St. John! The silence from the Town Council and Town Manager on this matter is deafening. You're supposed to be a team and you're certainly not acting like one. You ran as a team and now that one of your team members is being attacked you're hiding in the shadows. Start supporting each other for the good of St. John and it's residents.

Thank you for allowing me to express my views on this matter and please support Christmas in the Park.

Respectfully,
Sharon Molis
St. John Resident

Sent from my iPad

13631 Empress Ln



Beth Hernandez

From: nicolemano435@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:45 PM
To: Beth Hernandez
Subject: Christmas in the park

My name is Nicole Manousopoulos my address is 10011 Parrish Ave, and I'd like to have the following read into the record. Once again Clerk Hernandez and her staff have outdone themselves with Christmas in the park. With the support of our PW,PD,FD and parks dept they have brought a festive holiday joy that brings our town together. To have such a success overshadowed by a tree is ridiculous. I stand behind her decision to let the tree stand and I know if someone had decorated a tree stating "mask our children" the clerk would of allowed it to stand as well. Our clerk is second to none and a strong female role model to my daughter and countless children in our town. As our only elected female representative in St John we should support and stand behind her.

Nicole Manousopoulos





Beth Hernandez <bethhernandez.clerk@gmail.com>

Christmas in the Park

1 message

Mary Therese Robert <marythereserobert@gmail.com>
To: bhernandez@stjohnin.com

Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 2:44 PM

I am deeply saddened by the recent events at Prairie West Park. I personally don't believe that the tree was appropriate. It was not the place nor the time for this rhetoric.

I do believe Ms Hernandez did the right thing by allowing the tree to stay. I truly believe she did this after much thought because she would of been stepping on Raymen LLC (?) freedom of speech and possibly occurring another legal debacle for the town. And why would one put up a tree and hide behind a fake name?

It saddens me the council has not come to her defense, not one word from a vocal council. I wish more elected officials put their energy into positive activities for families in this town. I believe it's important to know who is doing or not doing what.

It is my understanding that rules will now be put in place to prevent another atrocity from occurring. It's a shame that some thought their agenda was that important that they were willing to start controversy at a Christmas family event.

I don't know why that harassment and threats are being aimed at Ms. Hernandez. Who is going to benefit from that nonsense? She has had nothing but the best interest of the residents of this town. I for one I'm very grateful for all she does, from informing us about road closures to garbage pickup. I appreciate that because I need to know more than when a fish fry is going to be.

Thank you Beth Hernandez for all you do for the town and the residents of St John your efforts did not go unnoticed by the majority.

Dale & Mary Therese Robert

11990 Heron Lake Rd





Beth Hernandez <bethhernandez.clerk@gmail.com>

Thank you

Sarah M <scg0801@hotmail.com>
To: "bhernandez@stjohnin.com" <bhernandez@stjohnin.com>

Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 2:54 PM

Hi Beth,

I just wanted to say you are a true American. You deserve a lot of credit for standing up for freedom of speech with the "unmask the kids" tree. I do not know what your stance is, but respecting everyone's individual rights is what this country is about. I have no doubt you have received a lot of heat from crazies. If there is anything the conservative base can do to show some support please let me know.

Regards,
Sarah

Get Outlook for iOS

Sarah Miller
6224 W 186th Ave





Beth Hernandez <bethhernandez.clerk@gmail.com>

Contact

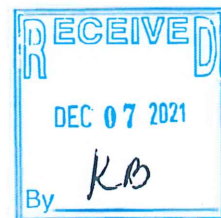
9102 W. 103RD PL

Stan Wolf <swolfie569@icloud.com>
To: bhernandez@stjohnin.com

Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 2:58 PM

The tree should be removed Story has now gone nation wide Stain on St John

Sent from my iPhone





Beth Hernandez <bethhernandez.clerk@gmail.com>

Christmas in the Park

1 message

Lydia Bouvat <msbopr77@icloud.com>
To: bhernandez@stjohnin.com

Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 4:38 PM

My name is Lydia Bouvat
Address is 9291 West 103pl

I would like to say that I thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas in the park. I am so grateful for the commitment and the leadership of our town Clerk Beth Hernandez and her staff. The clerk office and the park department did a tremendous job. My family and grandchildren loved all the trees, the Fireworks and especially Santa. Good Job:)

Sent from my iPad





Beth Hernandez <bethhernandez.clerk@gmail.com>

Unmask the kids tree

1 message

Rita <crazy4horses04@msn.com>

Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 4:45 PM

To: "bhernandez@stjohnin.com" <bhernandez@stjohnin.com>

Beth Hernandez,

I would also like to add my name and address: Rita Popp - 1902 Loganberry Lane, Crown Point, Indiana 46307.
I am totally against the children being forced to wear a mask. My biggest concern is that this situation is taking freedom of choice out of the hands of the American people. Wearing a mask has not proven to stop covid and feels more like a dictatorship. The government has no business in our schools. My prayers go out daily for all the people struggling to keep their jobs and their freedom. This situation is blowing way out of proportion and is causing unrest to the parents of these children.
Thank you for your time,
Sincerely Rita M. Popp

Sent from my iPhone





Beth Hernandez <bethhernandez.clerk@gmail.com>

Thank you

1 message

Amanda Battey <abattey81@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 4:49 PM

To: bhernandez@stjohnin.com

Hi, this is Amanda Battey. We have lived in St. John since 2013. I'm from Lowell, Indiana. Born and raised here. I want to tell you thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do for this town. This town is blessed to have you. The REAL locals know this. I have no idea where you stand on mask, but thank you for letting all voices be heard in a respectful manner. I do agree. I'm not quite sure the park is the best place, but when parents can't get school boards to listen they go anywhere they can get their voices heard. The amount of hate you received is heartbreaking that anyone would let themselves be so fueled with anger they attack. You don't deserve that. So many were not even from this area. The hate people have in their hearts I say is the real pandemic. God Bless you Beth this holiday season. Keep doing what your doing! We are truly thankful to have you. Ignore the hate, these people are not happy individuals. That's all I can say. Merry Christmas!!! Sincerely Amanda Battey

8407 Heron Lake Rd.





Beth Hernandez <bethhernandez.clerk@gmail.com>

Christmas Tree

Donald Piper <donaldpiper@sbcglobal.net>
To: "bhernandez@stjohnin.com" <bhernandez@stjohnin.com>

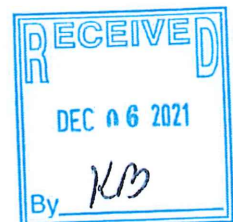
Mon, Dec 6, 2021 at 4:54 PM

Beth,

I wanted to reach out in support of the way you handled the "tree debacle". You stood your ground despite personal views. That shows great leadership, and you are doing an awesome job for the town of St. John. Thanks for all you do!!

Julie Piper

9248 W. 103rd St



Beth Hernandez

From: Elizabeth Wiers <eliz51784@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 5:53 PM
To: Beth Hernandez
Subject: Support of the "unmask the kids" tree

I saw a post on Facebook about emailing you to show our support of the "unmask the kids" tree.

My husband and I support it and appreciate the town not removing it under pressure!

Elizabeth and Jeff Wiers
9128 Winding Trail
St. John

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



Beth Hernandez <bethhernandez.clerk@gmail.com>

Thank you

1 message

BRAD and BETH URAM <bybrd@live.com>

Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 6:05 PM

To: "Bhernandez@stjohnin.com" <Bhernandez@stjohnin.com>

Beth,

I am a Crown Point resident and would like to add my name and address to go along with the email Sarah Miller sent you in regards to how you handled the "Controversial Christmas Tree". Thank you for protecting our 1st Amendment. I can't imagine how it has been for you over the past few weeks, but please know that you have my family's and my deepest gratitude. Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Beth Uram
12461 Pennsylvania Place
Crown Point, In. 46307

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get Outlook for Android

Beth Hernandez

From: Jeffrey Schuh <schuh17@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:04 PM
To: Beth Hernandez; eliz51784@yahoo.com; Al Schuh; Jan Schuh
Subject: I support Unmask the Kids Tree.

I am emailing for my support of Unmask the Kids tree. We live in a cancel culture society that has hurt feelings and doesn't understand free speech. We allow devil worship and atheist displays often next to nativity sets in our society. While I don't agree with them, I don't want them banned. I believe masks are child abuse to children that cannot breath. That tree is a demonstration to stop abusing children and I support it. You are welcome to read this email on public record.

Please take this into consideration and don't bend a knee to the woke cancel culture mob.

Jeff Schuh
14160 W. 93rd Place, Saint John, IN 46373
312-343-2331