LINDA
FOR MAYOR
TOWN OF VIENNA

April 30, 2020

Dear Vienna Voter,

You may have received a mailer from one of my opponents – Councilmember Pasha Majdi – making claims about me and Councilmember Springsteen that simply are not true. What is most disappointing is Councilmember Majdi has spent the past several years dividing our Town on issues that we can solve by working together. I believe in One Vienna. I grew up here, taught here, raised my family here, and I will fight to preserve the uniqueness of the Vienna that I love. I have run a positive campaign, but I cannot sit by and let him spread misrepresentations that are strictly political. Vienna deserves to know the truth.

Councilmember Majdi made the following claims:

1. He claims I did not -"Support[] Covid-19 response fund for masks, gloves, PPE etc."

I care about every resident and safety and health are my top priorities. His claim shows a lack of understanding of how this relief works and why every other Councilmember thought it was unnecessary. Vienna received over $2 million dollars from the Federal government. This money coupled with the medical supplies and care through Fairfax County will fund things that our town needs. We do not need to create a special fund for this, and we do not need to use this crisis to divide us when we are all in this together.

2. He claims credit for "Support[ing] pausing $14 million Police Station Project, funded by meals tax, until revenue stabilizes."

Our Town Police deserve the resources they need to do their job. The Town already went out to bid for this project at a historically low rate. The Town has been fiscally responsible and has adequate reserves to cover a shortfall in the meals tax. I will NEVER compromise when it comes to supporting the Vienna Police and the safety of our town.

3. He claims credit for being "Against funding rezoning consultant ($250.000) during pandemic."

Councilmember Majdi was against funding the consultant *before* the pandemic. The Council, Planning Commission and staff need an expert to be a guide through this huge and very important process. As a resident, I would want a professional in this field to lead us (not make decisions) as opposed to seven

* Paid for by Linda Colbert

Councilmembers who are not experts. The Council voted to do the responsible thing.

4. He claims credit for being "Against zoning code rewrite for residential neighborhoods."

This is a scare tactic. Our zoning code is over sixty years old. The residential code will not be "rewritten" but organized and updated for things that will help residents like allowing people to add front porches and addressing family daycares. The Council, working together with residents, will make improvements to help residents.

5. Majdi claims I am for "four stories or taller buildings on Maple Avenue."

Councilmember Majdi supported five or more storied buildings in the center of town at a work session. I have never stated that I wanted more than four stories. I will be a champion for a walkable and vibrant main street, and I will fight to make sure the uniqueness of Vienna is protected.

6. He claims that he alone is "Against residential buildings on Maple - keep it primarily commercial."

I agree that Maple Avenue should be kept primarily commercial.

7. He claims the he alone "Supports speed humps on major cut through streets (e.g. Kingsley, Tapawingo)"

There was never a vote by Council on this topic. I support traffic calming measures in neighborhoods. Traffic is a quality of life issue and we need to address it together and not falsely accuse others of somehow being in favor of traffic for our own political purposes.

8. He claims I support "removing petition requirement for traffic calming (e.g. speed humps, crosswalks) on residential streets."

We all agree that traffic is a priority. However, every street in Vienna is different and deserves to be researched and evaluated as to what traffic calming measure solution is best.

9. He claims I do not support "changing Capital Improvement Plan (i.e. Budget) to fund speed humps and traffic calming throughout town."

This is a misunderstanding of Town governance and we all believe traffic calming is a top priority. I have voted for speed humps in Town and will continue to support speed humps in Town where appropriate.

10. He claims credit for being "Against any zoning code rewrite without a traffic plan; a traffic plan must be included in any process (i.e. Level of service requirement)."

The zoning code will be organized, not "rewritten," and any changes will go through a process that will include feedback and discussion with residents. There will be a selected consultant and they will help the residents and the Town with the update, and it will include transportation planning. Because creating talking points around traffic can score political points, he again manufactures an issue where none exists.

11. Majdi claims I do not support "tree conservation policy."

This is absurd. I am one of the biggest champions of increasing the tree canopy in our Town and annually lobby the Virginia Assembly to increase requirements to this end. Councilmember Majdi tried to gain Council support for an ambiguous plan that was ill conceived and heavily burdened with bureaucracy. He now uses my objection to that poorly thought out plan for political purposes.

12. Majdi claims credit for supporting " moving mulch yard and restoring Beulah Road Park."

Councilmember Majdi only brought this up during the election to make it a political divider. I support having a community conversation and I would like to come to a conclusion that would be amenable to the residents in Northeast as well as the residents in all Vienna. Further research into the cost changes and feasibility of outsourcing or other options is prudent.

I hope that you will see the claims made by Councilmember Majdi for what they are -- an effort to create political wedges for his own gain. I reject the politics of divisiveness that tear us apart and choose to root for every resident of Vienna.

Together we can solve the issues of our Town, and I hope that you will support me as your next Mayor.

#OneVienna

Sincerely,

Linda Colbert

* *Paid for by Linda Colbert*