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Editor
The Smithtown News
One Brookside Drive
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Re: He's Back – Dan Donnelly and His Bag of Election Tricks

Editor:

You reported last week that the Smithtown Republican Committee plans to nominate Dan Donnelly for Smithtown Highway Superintendent and that he will run on the same ticket as Supervisor Vecchio, Councilman McCarthy, and Town Clerk Puleo. Isn't this the same Dan Donnelly who used his position as Smithtown Highway Superintendent from 1998 to 2001 to further his career as a Suffolk County political operative while ignoring his actual job of taking care of Smithtown's roads? Donnelly's job performance was so bad that Supervisor Vecchio, Councilwoman Conway, and Councilman McCarthy told Smithtown Republican Party Chairman McGuire that they would not run on the same ticket as Dan Donnelly in 2001.

Mr. Donnelly introduced the "bait and switch" process into Smithtown elections over the past decade by running fake "placeholder" candidates on the Independence and Conservative Party lines. Once the nominating petitions for these phony candidates were filed with the Suffolk County Board of Elections, Donnelly would go into his wheeling and dealing mode with Democratic and Republican candidates. He would offer candidates the Independence and/or Conservative line in exchange for a spot for himself or one of his candidates on the Democratic or Republican line. Four years ago, Mr. Donnelly used this tactic to sneak his daughter onto the Democratic ticket as a candidate for Town Clerk.

Dan Donnelly also likes to use the absentee ballot process to game the system. In the *Matter of Tsunis, et. al. v. Daniel Donnelly, et. al.*, the petitioner alleged that Donnelly solicited absentee ballot applications from voters for the 2005 Conservative Primary even though those voters were available to vote on Primary Day. It was specifically alleged that Dan Donnelly made himself the agent to pick up such absentee ballots on behalf of those voters so that he could influence their vote. The petition also alleged that "the use of absentee ballots [was] a calculated and intentional tactic to ensure and assist individuals to write in names for the primary or to intimidate and harass or otherwise annoy individual voters into writing in names on the primary ballot for candidates that are the choice of ...Donnelly." The Suffolk County Supreme Court enjoined the Suffolk County Board of Elections from counting any of the absentee ballots obtained by Donnelly. Since Mr. Donnelly failed to appear and interpose a defense, the court was obligated to determine the allegations were true and that the subject voters were not qualified for absentee ballots.

It's time for Dan Donnelly to stop interfering with elections in Smithtown. Perhaps he can redeem himself. Maybe he can offer his services as a pro bono election fraud investigator to District Attorney Tom Spota.

Very truly yours,

Victoria T. Brown