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Grayzel blasts Rosenbush 'smears'

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MORRIS TWP. - The following is a release from Morris Township Committeeman Jeff Grayzel who is running as a Democrat for re-election with running mate Mary Marley Reidy against Republican Mayor Scott Rosenbush and his running mate, Bruce Sisler, on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Grayzel took issue with statements the Rosenbush campaign has made in the past week that Grayzel claims are smears.

"Scott Rosenbush apparently cannot run on his record, so he has resorted to a smear campaign against me— just like he did last election," Grayzel said. "He has distorted my words and my record, and has taken credit for accomplishments that are not his. This is an insult to our citizens and a distraction from the real issues important to Morris Township.

"I stand on my record, my qualifications, and, most importantly, my integrity.

"I refuse to join Mr. Rosenbush as he plays sleazy, gutter politics. This is a local election with local issues. It is not – and *should not* – be about party politics. But the people of Morris Township deserve to know the truth and what the *real* issues are:

Fact: My campaign contribution reports are up-to-date and available for public view—Mr. Rosenbush's are not, since he has ignored mandatory filing deadlines and violated campaign laws.

"For three years I have been fighting for open government, something I think every resident deserves. So while my campaign contribution reports are filed on time and easily available for you to scrutinize on the election commission website, *Mr. Rosenbush's are not*—since he has *ignored two mandatory filing deadlines in violation of state campaign law*. Only he can tell you why his campaign won't file its list of contributors for public review. The law applies to *all* candidates, and he certainly knows the rules after 14 years as an elected official, but he has chosen to ignore the law. This is a pattern--he also violated these rules during the primary campaign and his last election. I have filed a request for an investigation with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission to look into this matter.

"Mr. Rosenbush misleads you by citing union contributions that were given to state and county parties—not to my campaign. While I respect unions--these are hard working individuals who have a right to contribute just like everyone else--I have *no ties to unions*.

"An important issue, however, is campaign contributions given by professionals in return for government contracts. That's why I recently introduced a local anti-corruption pay-to-play bill, after Mr. Rosenbush refused to include the ordinance on our meeting agenda.

"Fact: Open government is about communicating with residents year-round, not just at election time.

"I made a pledge when I got elected that I would open communications with residents—and I have sent 27 issues of my [e-mail newsletter](#)—reporting details of committee meetings and community events—since I was elected. Why did I need to publish a newsletter? Because of the Township's near total lack of communications with residents over the 14 years Mr. Rosenbush has been in office. And as head of the Township's Information Technology Committee, Mr. Rosenbush could have supported—but *didn't*—televising Township meetings on cable TV, like so many other municipalities do, so residents can see

for themselves what happens at every meeting.

"Fact: Mr. Rosenbush fought *for development* and *against open space*.

"My opponent claims he is an advocate of open space who helped preserve the Delbarton property—but the truth is that he tried to develop that parcel for housing. I fought against this development and fought to preserve this land for open space—he did not.

"Fact: I questioned whether the Township was providing services in the most efficient manner.

"Mr. Rosenbush is trying to scare seniors with his claim that I proposed eliminating senior services—*this is false*. Seniors pay taxes, too, and they deserve the services they get. What I did question was whether we could provide these same services in a more efficient manner and at a lower cost—and that's just being *fiscally responsible*.

"Fact: Rosenbush's tenure has been one of large tax increases, *not* fiscal responsibility.

"Do you think a 9% tax increase each year is low? I don't, but apparently Mr. Rosenbush does. Under his watch, the average annual tax increase was 9% during the four years before I joined the Committee (2002-2006). Since I was elected, we've cut those increases down to 3%. Plus, the annual Morris Township financial audit has been inadequate and needs more oversight. My running mate, [Mary Marley-Reidy](#), is an auditor with extensive finance expertise --something no one on the Township Committee has. She has the unique skills to make sure all our tax dollars are being properly spent.

"Fact: Morris Township workers had plans to unionize years before I was elected.

: "Former Republican Township Mayor Nace publicly stated years ago that the workers of Morris Township planned to unionize. Mr. Rosenbush knows that *my election had nothing to do with the formation of the employees union*.

"Fact: Due to my efforts, residents can now comment on the budget *before* it's finalized.

"The practice before I was elected was to only permit residents to comment on the budget *after* it was finalized. I don't call that input, do you? Now residents have real, meaningful input into how their tax dollars are spent. That's what I call open government.

"Fact: Traffic and safety only became an issue for the Township Committee when I made it one.

"For those of you who read my newsletters, you know that traffic and safety have been a major concern of mine since day one—and I have worked closely with residents, some who've been complaining to the Township for 20 years, to try to make our community safer. But Mr. Rosenbush tries to claim credit for this and for the "Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25" program—which is in fact a national program spearheaded by a Township resident.

"Fact: I challenged the damaging impasse in union negotiations.

"When I came to office, negotiations between the Township and the union were at a standstill for nine months. This was damaging to our Township because no contract not only means dissatisfied and unproductive employees, but possible distortions to our budget from lump sum pay increases. I *did* challenge the status quo and reach out to break the impasse, with the sole purpose of protecting our Township. Was there a better way to handle this? Perhaps, but their way wasn't working.

"Fact: My attendance at Committee meetings is impeccable.

"For those of you who read my newsletters, you know about all the meetings I go to and how hard I'm working on your

behalf. With regard to Mr. Rosenbush's Recreation Committee allegations, he need only check with his colleague, Deputy Mayor Dan Caffrey. Mr. Caffrey and I shared attendance at these meetings.

"Again, I want to emphasize that I stand on my record, my qualifications and most importantly, my integrity. If you want facts, and not distortions, and if you want open and responsible government, please come out on Tuesday and vote for me, Jeff Grayzel, and Mary Marley-Reidy.

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