



Dear Friends,

In the last week of a campaign it is not unusual for tensions to run high. Last week a Newton resident sent a private email about one of my opponents which was hurtful. I have denounced the email and have spoken to this resident about why it was wrong. He is contrite.

I empathize with my opponent as I have received hateful emails during the course of this campaign. While these horrible acts are beyond our control, they motivate me to continue serving as a positive force against racism and intolerance in our community.

I believe we are better off engaging in dialogue, even with those who have hurt us, and come to a place where we are talking about the things that unite us, rather than divide us. At our most basic levels, we all want the same things - to be loved, and accepted, for who we are.

As someone whose ancestors include enslaved peoples, Indigenous Americans, and Russian Jews, I feel deep sympathy and kinship with all people who feel or have felt marginalized in our society. I am a strong supporter of LGBTQ+ rights and issues. I welcome the support from people who live in all eight of our wards. I welcome support from those who consider themselves progressive, moderate, or conservative. I welcome your support regardless of your views on policing, zoning, or bike lanes.

I have worked as a youth sports referee for over 20 years. In that time I have dealt with volatile tempers and even tears. I believe it has taught me to keep cool under pressure, and to be extremely fair minded.

I hope for the remainder of this campaign we can be focused on why each of us believes they would be the best candidate to serve Newton residents. Because at the end of the day, being in political office is really about service to others.

Thank you for your support.

Tarik Lucas