



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team Reacts to "Dirty Politics" False Claims Targeting Trustee Candidate Mark Mills

Anonymous Phone Calls Spread Lies About Mills' Residency in Attempt to Turn Voters Against Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team

Grosse Ile, Michigan - The Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team has been disappointed to learn that its Trustee candidate Mark Mills is the target of "dirty politics" being coordinated by an unidentified individual or individuals. At least one person has been anonymously calling Grosse Ile residents to spread the false claim that Mr. Mills, his wife and school-aged son are not residents of the Island in an apparent effort to undermine his campaign and the entire Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team.

Mr. Mills and his family are legal residents of Grosse Ile although they are temporarily living in the Wyandotte house of his mother-in-law to enable a major renovation of their house on West River Rd. Mr. Mills meets all the legal requirements to be a candidate for Grosse Ile Township Board. He has had a twenty-five year career in law enforcement, and currently holds the rank of Sergeant in the Westland Police Department. Mr. Mills is a first-time candidate for public office.

Mr. Mills said, "It is deeply disturbing that an unidentified person, or persons, apparently opposed to the Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team would spread lies about the location of my legal residency in an attempt to hurt us politically with the voters. My wife and I decided to do a major renovation of our house on West River Road that we purchased in December of 2018. We briefly lived in the house, but felt it was too uncomfortable to stay there given the great amount of dust, noise and utility systems disruption involved in a rebuild this comprehensive. If we had no other choice, we would live in the West River Road house now, but my mother-in-law is fantastic, and she insisted on having us temporarily stay with her.

My wife and I are making a very significant financial investment to create what we consider to be our 'dream house' on West River Road in which we will live as soon as the work is done. It is taking a large portion of our life savings to bring this 108 year old house up to current building codes while dramatically improving its appearance. We are doing the right thing in helping to build up Grosse Ile's tax base."

In 2014, Mr. Mills moved to Grosse Ile with his wife and children after purchasing a house on Lake Rd. Mr. and Mrs. Mills' youngest son enrolled in kindergarten at the Grosse Ile Township Schools District during fall of 2017, and completed the second grade by the spring of 2020. They have continuously paid property

taxes for residential homes owned by them on the Island since moving here about five and half years ago; first on Lake Rd. from 2014 to 2018, and then on their current West River Rd. home from 2018 to present. Since 2014, Mr. and Mrs. Mills' legal residence has been Grosse Ile where they are registered to vote.

Mr. Mills further said, "When we first moved into the house on West River Rd., we immediately made friends with everyone, but there was one neighbor who resented my belief that Township ordinances should be properly followed. Working as a police officer, I am mindful that members of the law enforcement profession are sometimes held to a higher standard in ordinance compliance because we know the law.

I'm fine with strict ordinance compliance, but whoever is doing this appears to be getting information from inside Township Hall that can be distorted and politically weaponized against me. I understand candidates for public office get carefully scrutinized, but these political smear tactics cross the line of propriety. I'm new to politics, but I've already learned that the old saying that 'no good deed goes unpunished' is sadly very true."

Mr. Mills is not the only Grosse Ile 2020 Candidate who chose a career in law enforcement. Trustee candidate Joe Porcarelli was a Grosse Ile police officer for 33 1/2 years which included serving as the Chief of Police for the final nine and a half years of his tenure. In addition, Jamison Yager has had a 17 year career in the U.S. Army Michigan National Guard where he currently serves as a military police officer.

Joe Porcarelli said, "This is not an easy time to have a career in law enforcement. I am not at all surprised there are anonymous individuals resorting to dirty political tricks in a desperate attempt to defeat the Grosse Ile 2020 Campaign Team. In fact, I fully expect these attacks against members of the Grosse Ile 2020 Campaign Team to get much more intense and malicious in the time leading up to the Primary Election on August 4."

The Grosse Ile 2020 Campaign Team asks that any Islander who receives a political attack phone call or mailing to report it to the campaign by e-mail at grosseile2020@gmail.com.

About the Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team

During April of 2020, seven Island residents filed applications to run in the 2020 Republican Primary Election in August as a slate of candidates named Grosse Ile 2020 for all elected positions that comprise the Grosse Ile Township Board. The following Islanders are members of the Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team with the positions being sought: Jim Budny, Supervisor; David Nadeau, Treasurer; Mark Lane, Clerk; Joe Porcarelli, Trustee; Mike Jurecki, Trustee; Mark Mills, Trustee; and Jamison Yager, Trustee.

The mission of the Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team is to provide the citizens of Grosse Ile with honest, respectful and responsive local government that delivers outstanding services and enacts sound policies which support excellent quality of life in the most cost-effective manner. These candidates developed the Grosse Ile 2020 Campaign Platform to resolve problems with the operations of the current Township Board and increase the fiscal responsibility of Township government while creating new opportunities to improve the quality of life in the community. To learn more about the Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team, view their web site at www.grosseile2020.com.

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