

William J. Scott, Jr.
[REDACTED]
Forty Fort, PA 18704

July 24, 2022

Tim McGinley
Luzerne County Council
200 N. River Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

Dear Mr. McGinley,

Please accept this note as a follow-up on correspondence I sent to the Council about a month ago. I hope that note was received. In that correspondence, I expressed displeasure with Council's resolution to eliminate no excuse, mail-in voting and abolish ballot drop boxes. That action is perceived as furtherance of Donald Trump's preposterous and discredited Big Lie effort. The resolution's basis is completely unsupported by any credible evidence. I challenged the Republican members of Council in my correspondence to "Put up or shut up" in providing evidence of widespread voter fraud associated with the 2020 election.

It has recently come to my attention that at least several Republican members of Council have made reference to Dinesh D'Souza's fact-averse "documentary" 2000 Mules as a source of information regarding the 2020 presidential election. Those members of Council should be aware that Mr. D'Souza is a notorious liar and propagandist. It is notable that he is a convicted felon for campaign finance violations. He was later pardoned by Trump, of course, in an apparent quid pro quo arrangement – "I pardon you, you make propaganda for me." Mr. D'Souza is not a credible source for ANY information. Believing Dinesh D'Souza is like enrolling into Trump University – you're being scammed.

In contrast to Mr. D'Souza's misinformation, embedded in this correspondence are two links to legitimate, FACT-BASED information regarding the 2020 Presidential election. The first is a link to a comprehensive Associated Press analysis of the utilization of ballot drop boxes throughout the U.S. in the 2020 election. It is documented in that analysis: "*The expanded use of drop boxes for mailed ballots during the 2020 election did not lead to any widespread problems, according to an Associated Press survey of state election officials across the U.S. that revealed no cases of fraud, vandalism or theft that could have affected the results.*"

<https://apnews.com/article/voting-rights-2022-midterm-elections-covid-health-wisconsin-c61fa93a12a1a51d6d9f4e0a21fa3b75>

The second link is to a publication of an exhaustive study produced by a group of esteemed, traditional conservatives. It is simply entitled "Lost, Not Stolen – The Conservative Case That Trump Lost and Biden Won the 2020 Presidential Election".

<https://lostnotstolen.org/>

Liz Cheney, who was at one time well-regarded within the Republican Party until she challenged Trump's lies and has consequently become a pariah within that party, recently stated, "We cannot abandon the truth and remain a free nation." To paraphrase Ms. Cheney, it can also be stated, "We cannot abandon truth and remain a viable county."

The issues addressed in this correspondence have broad implications. Council has major responsibilities. Members of Council have weighty decisions to make on behalf of all county residents. Those decisions should not be based on misinformation, propaganda, or confirmation biases. Facts and credible information need to be examined in all decision-making processes. I call on all members of Council to be fact-based and rational in their future deliberations.

Respectfully,

William J. Scott, Jr.