

From: Diamond, Steven [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/15/2020 11:00:09 AM
To: sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Graydon Capacity Limits

Hi Mrs. Knudsen,

I received an inquiry from Nancy Bigos regarding the capacity limits and wait times asking for an action plan for the Board Meeting this evening.

It would be beneficial if I could meet you at Graydon (I'm here today all day) and I can give a tour focusing on the limitations that we face and the steps that we have taken. (We did increase capacity limits, we have announced the Maple Avenue sides is open)

It's hard to articulate our struggles when no one wants to come down to try to understand them.

Please let me know if you would be willing to come down.

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Steven Diamond
Special Education / Language and Literature Department
Bridgewater Raritan High School
Assistant Ice Hockey Coach
[REDACTED]

From: Diamond, Steven [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/11/2020 07:31:07 PM
To: hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net; rhache@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Graydon Hours

Dear Mrs. Mailander,

On behalf of the management team at Graydon Pool I want to make it abundantly clear that the hours of 10-7 were directly taken from an email sent by you. The following is an excerpt from your email on 6/20/20

"Graydon pool will be open, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with one session only, as it has been in the past. Sanitizing will be done throughout the day. Guest pass fees will be \$15/day for resident guest badge fees and \$20/day for non-resident guest badge fees which are the amounts in the 2020 ordinance. There will be occupancy limits in the restrooms and all garbage will be carried out by those who brought in the items which created the garbage "

This information was directly sent to my management team and staff so that they could be aware of the changes made to the two session format which had already been scheduled. We redid the monthly schedule for the staff which had previously been completed. We informed all badge staff of the changes. WE FOLLOWED THE DIRECTIVES SENT FORTH BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL. We assumed this change was clearly in response to Marcia Ringel (who apparently runs Graydon and the Council even though she has not been a member in years).

Given the lack of any response from you to my emails or phone calls in the pre season and any subsequent follow up to the way the pool has run according to the directives set forth by the Council and Governor's Executive orders it does not surprise me that there has been complete confusion and miscommunication.

It is categorically disgraceful the way the management staff has been marginalized this season in the middle of a pandemic. It is disgraceful that our opinions do not matter or are even considered.

However, I will not sit by when the very reputation and credibility of our management staff is put into question by patrons for simply following the WRITTEN DIRECTIVES of the VILLAGE COUNCIL.

This is a problem created by the Village Council based on the tragic lack of understanding, knowledge, and interest in the logistics of Graydon Pool.

Ample opportunity was offered by me through email and phone messages to avoid such an egregious error and misinformation to patrons. The council all have chosen to ignore a 27 year employee.

Under no circumstances will the management staff accept ANY RESPONSIBILITY for this miscommunication.

Signed (with no expectation of any acknowledgement or reply)

Steven Diamond, Pool Manager

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Steven Diamond
Special Education / Language and Literature Department
Bridgewater Raritan High School
Assistant Ice Hockey Coach


From: Diamond, Steven [REDACTED]
Sent time: 06/21/2020 07:21:50 PM
To: rhache@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Graydon Pool

Hi Mr. Hache,

My name is Steven Diamond and I am the Graydon Pool Manager. I have been at Graydon Pool since I was 15 years and have been at my present managerial position for over 15 years. I am THE longest tenured employee at Graydon Pool.

I wanted to go on the record by saying the Village Council's stunning lack of consultation with me about the pool operations or safety of my staff in the current pandemic conditions. I have emailed Village Manager and left voicemails since March desiring to offer my perspective on the operations of the pool and the safety of my staff. Not ONE SINGLE reply has been received.

Since January I have been prepping for the pool opening. Since March I have attended WEEKLY manager meeting with the New Jersey Pool Manager's Association to discuss and develop operational plans in these pandemic conditions. I have been getting safety equipment for my staff. There is not a single person who knows how to run that pool like I do or understands what it takes to train a staff to work there. There is a standard of excellence we aspire to and I am the last of the staff around who trains a staff as hard or demands the level of supervision and standards we have at Graydon Pool.

I have also been watching the Council meetings where the Village Council's complete lack of concern for the safety of my young staff who also happen to be the kids of your constituents is on full display.

Just today, I received an email that the entire schedule of the pool has changed from sessions to full day WITHOUT nary a word to the pool manager. Our schedule and staffing for July was already done based on the session format.

I will obviously go back to schedules and email my staff about the changes made without my consultation or guidance.

It is shocking that a group of people who have not even bothered to visit the pool (despite my continued invitations through Nancy Bigos) or understand its inner workings and necessary protocols can make arbitrary decisions based on emails from townspeople (some non members) who also do not understand the inner workings or necessary protocols of how to run Graydon Pool safely.

I have always believed that I was at Graydon Pool based on my knowledge, skills, and high standards for staff and that this ability was respected by my superiors.

As I see now, with the exception of Nancy Bigos who has also shown me great respect and whose respect I have always desired, I am simply a puppet of town. I also grew up in Ridgewood, went to the public schools, and have parents who still live there which makes my treatment even more disgraceful.

I have listened to you speak at the Village Council and you seem to be level headed, respectful, and, above all else, a decent human being. I hope that maybe you will hear my words and at least respond

Sincerely,

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Steven Diamond
Special Education / Language and Literature Department
Bridgewater Raritan High School
Assistant Ice Hockey Coach
