

# FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR DICK SEARS

(Holly Springs 2001-2021)

Friends,

Many of you know that my health has not been good, which is why I decided to not seek re-election as Holly Springs Mayor last fall after serving the Town for 20 years. Being "Mayor Sears" has been my greatest joy and source of pride. As mayor, I saw Holly Springs through its triumphs and challenges, starting when it was a very small town through when it became a very big-small town. I always said "if it's good for the kids, it's good for Holly Springs". I am proud of Holly Springs and the people who have been so selflessly dedicated to lifting up our Town and our people, especially our kids, over many years.

However, in 2017, our Town suffered a **serious and public black-eye, caused by then-resident and aspiring politician, Christine Kelly**. This bruise has not healed, and the people she hurt have not recovered. The damage Christine Kelly tried to do to good people and to the reputation of our town in order to position herself to win a seat on the Town Council in the 2017 election, will never be forgotten.

Here is the background: In connection to a dispute involving a portion of a road near her residence, Christine Kelly claimed to be the victim of serious ethics violations by three town council members, one professional town staff member, and me. Kelly lodged 53 (yes, fifty-three!) Code of Ethics and Conduct violation allegations against the Town. If found to be true, these allegations would have been career-ending for the Town's professional staff member -- a good person, who has served our Town with integrity over many years.

Due to the severity of Kelly's claims, the Town of Holly Springs was required to hire an independent counsel to investigate. After a thorough and detailed examination, independent counsel found "no credible evidence of an ethics violation in this matter" and "Ms. Kelly admitted to lodging the complaints in an effort to delay the council's vote on a downtown project". In short, her harmful stunt was just a political show to serve her own interests. **To be clear - Christine Kelly tried to destroy the career of a Town professional staff member and publicly slander elected Town Board members, using 53 baseless Code of Ethics complaints, in order to win a Town Council seat and manipulate the outcome of a road project.**

After the ordeal ended and all allegations were found to be baseless, the Town Council voted to request that **Christine Kelly repay the Town the \$10,732.80 in unnecessary legal expenses the Town incurred** as a result of this matter, so that the taxpayers didn't have to. Christine Kelly refused. To this day she has still not paid the taxpayers back. Christine Kelly is now on the ballot as the Democrat candidate for State House representing District 37 in southern Wake County. Last fall, Christine Kelly also ran for Mayor of Holly Springs and was overwhelmingly **rejected** by voters 39-61%.

At a time when we need our elected representatives to put the needs of their constituents first, and work together with those whom they sometimes disagree, Christine Kelly will not do this. She's NEVER done this. Instead, Christine Kelly seeks to tear-down the people who disagree with her. I urge you to reject Kelly's bid for State House on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

I strongly support the re-election of our current State Representative Erin Paré. I've never seen a State Representative go to bat for our area in the NC House like Erin has. Regardless of your political affiliation, Erin Paré is common-sense, effective, results-oriented, and well-respected across party lines. Simply put, Erin Paré is the best State Representative our area has ever had and she deserves to be re-elected. I ask you to please vote for Erin Paré on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,



Mayor Dick Sears