

EDITORIAL

CLEAN-UP THE FBI

Andrew McCabe, the former Deputy Director of the FBI was fired this week by US Attorney General Jeff Sessions. McCabe's firing came after the recommendation from the FBI's Office of Professional Responsibility finding that McCabe leaked confidential material to the media about the FBI's involvement in the US Presidential election, and that McCabe then lied to FBI investigators about it. Unsaid in the recommendation were McCabe's huge conflicts of interest - his wife ran as a Democratic candidate for Virginia Senate, received donations from the Clinton team, and then McCabe handled - and buried - the Clinton e-mail investigation.

McCabe was appointed FBI Deputy Director by James Comey, who was himself fired by President Trump, after overseeing the wiretapping of both the Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump presidential campaigns.

Corruption in law enforcement is the worst kind of public corruption. It corrodes the public trust between the public and law enforcement; turns police into criminals; and brings criminal scum into the orbit of law enforcement.

If you have any doubt, just look at Suffolk Police Chief James Burke - a political appointee - who beat prisoners; trafficked in pornography; wiretapped witnesses working with the FBI; intimidated local officials; and shut-down investigations into drug sales, MS-13 gang murders, and the murder of young women whose bodies have been found buried on the south shore beaches. Burke is now a convicted felon in federal prison. But he corrupted dozens of Suffolk police officers - who have now taken criminal pleas - including lying to the FBI.

Democracies - if they wish to survive - need to demand the highest integrity and professionalism from law enforcement. Interference with the democratic process - using the government's vast powers of wiretapping and intimidation to manipulate elections - is not just wrong, it is illegal and criminal. That is why people like McCabe and Comey deserved to be fired, and should never again be trusted with any public office.

The Publisher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: We encourage our readers to express their view regardless of opinion, through the Letters to the Editor column. Letters published represent the viewpoint of our readers. *They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Leader* and, in fact, may be of opposite viewpoint. Letters should be typed and mailed or emailed to the editor's attention. Letters will be edited for length, clarity and accuracy. All letters should be signed and contain author's address and telephone number for verification. Although it is discouraged, we will withhold an author's name if the subject matter is sensitive or the writer may be subject to intimidation or harassment. Letters that contain accusations or important "facts" must demonstrate knowledge in the area described or show evidence for their writing. *The Leader* will not return letters and reserves the right to publish them at a later time or not at all, due to lack of space or editor's discretion.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Leader has received several unsigned letters to the editor. We will respect an author's request for anonymity, but must have your name, address, and phone number. We want to hear from you and publish your opinions, so in the future, kindly include the above requested information.

LV FIRE DEPARTMENT 125 YEARS STRONG

To the Editor:

"On January 14, 2018, the Locust Valley Fire Department celebrated 125 years of service to the community. As part of this monumental milestone, the Locust Valley Fire Department will be hosting the 5th Battalion Parade & Drill on Saturday, June 16, 2018. It will be a fun day for all members of our community, young and old. There will be an old fashioned fireman's drill during the day at our tournament course on Elm Street (near the LIRR station) with rides for the kids and great food for everyone. In the evening, there will be a firematic parade through town followed by a block party at Thomas Park with live music. We invite the entire community to come celebrate with us! Mark your calendars!

Kevin T. Barry
Chief of Department
Locust Valley Fire Department

HORRIBLE ROAD CONDITIONS

To the Editor:

What is the story with the roads in Locust Valley? I have seen better roads in third world countries. Birch Hill Road is full of potholes and crumbling asphalt. The other local roads are little better. You should do a story on the sad state of our local roads.

Chase Landreth
Locust Valley

Editor's Note: The Leader will indeed be following up on Mr. Landreth's letter in future issues of The Leader.

IN RESPONSE TO THE STUDENT WALK-OUT

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo issued the following open letter to New York State Education Department Commissioner MaryEllen Elia.

On March 14th, I proudly stood shoulder to shoulder with brave students and faculty who spoke out against gun violence. History provides moments where real change is possible, and the thousands of students who participated in organized walk-outs all throughout the state are seizing the moment and admirably standing up for the safety of their classmates and students across the country.

Since March 13th there has been several reports of New York State schools disciplining students and faculty for participating in the historic events to stop gun violence. In at least one disturbing incident, it was reported that the school physically blocked the exits to prevent students from demonstrating.

These actions send a terrible message to New York's children and are against constitutional free speech protections. I call on you to use SED's authority to stop these schools, reverse course and cease any disciplinary actions.

Peaceful expression of views on controversial issues that is not disruptive or threatening is a right that all students have in this country, and any attempts to stifle this speech violates the constitutional rights of students and faculty to free speech. Threatening to discipline students for participating in the peaceful demonstrations is not only inappropriate, it is unconstitutional. Reports that schools may also discipline faculty are also high-

ly concerning and would send a terrible message to our students.

The students who participated in the walk-out are trying to advance laws and actions that would save their lives, and many viewed their participation as necessary to their own safety. The scourge of mass shootings in schools is very real, and these students were taking proactive steps to protect themselves and their classmates. These actions, coupled with the peaceful manner in which the demonstrations were conducted, is something that should be lauded, not punished.

Additionally, I call on you to thoroughly investigate any reports of schools that blocked the exits to physically prevent students from leaving during the event. This an egregious safety violation and it is also unlawful.

March 14th's actions were a testament to the courage and leadership of New York's students. As I said yesterday, these young people are showing more leadership than the so-called leaders in Washington. To punish or discipline them is inconsistent with the freedom of expression that we cherish. It would say more about the adults imposing discipline than it would about the students who exercised their rights to speak out.

Sincerely,
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

Leader Stations

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To our Subscribers

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