

Opinion

The Dispatch welcomes letters to the editor about subjects related to the Rivertowns. Letters must be no more than 300 words, submitted by Monday at noon for that week's issue, and include the names, home addresses, and phone numbers of their writers. No letter is guaranteed publication. To submit a letter, visit rivertownsdspatch.com/contact-us.

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To the Editor:

During these unprecedented times when the new administration is threatening the values and rights that we in Irvington hold dear, it is especially important that local government stay strong, principled, and true. That is why we endorse Arlene Burgos for mayor and trustee candidates Larry Ogrodnek and David Zwiebel.

As a public health professional and a public defender, we are all too familiar with the harm being caused in Washington, D.C. As the federal government guts and sterilizes

public institutions that are cornerstones of our society, we need — now more than ever — local leadership that is willing to take principled stands and who have tested experience, vision, and deep commitment to making Irvington a better and welcoming place to live. Deputy Mayor Arlene Burgos, past Trustee Larry Ogrodnek, and David Zwiebel have these qualifications and are the best candidates to lead Irvington.

They have important committee and board experience, including knowledge of the budgeting process and overseeing

current changes like the hiring of a new village administrator. They prioritize smart spending, transparency, accountability, and have demonstrated success utilizing grant funding to keep taxes under control. They believe in resident-led planning and meaningful community input, which is vital during these times when certain voices are being silenced. They are committed to balanced, responsible planning that addresses rising taxes and housing costs that affect everyone. They will prioritize sustainability to ensure our village

remains vibrant and resilient for future generations and foster a thriving and inclusive Irvington for everyone. Foremost, Arlene, Larry, and David will answer your calls, texts, and e-mails.

We encourage Irvington village Democrats to vote to endorse Arlene, Larry, and David during early voting early on Feb. 23, from 4-6 p.m. (St. Barnabas Episcopal Church) or at the Democratic Convention on Feb. 25 starting at 6:30 p.m. (Irvington Theater).

SANG HEE WON AND BEN GOLD
Irvington