

Housefather, council make re-election bids official

By Joel Goldenberg

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Côte St. Luc mayor Anthony Housefather and all of the city's incumbent councillors officially announced in a joint statement that they will run for re-election in this year's municipal vote, that Housefather is supporting all of their candidacies and they support his re-election.

"This has been an excellent council over the last four years," Housefather said in a prepared statement released Monday. "I really do believe we have found an effective and businesslike way to govern the municipality. I have always believed in empowering each member of council and I am very pleased with the success that has come with my decision to assign portfolios to each councillor. They became de facto cabinet ministers, if you will, and rose to the occasion. We have accomplished everything that was promised since demerger and more and I would be proud to serve with each one of them for the next four years."

All already confirmed to The Suburban recently that they are running again. Housefather said he supports Sam Goldbloom in District 1, Mike Cohen in District 2, Dida Berku in District 3, Steven Erdelyi in District 4, Allan Levine in District 5, Glenn Nashen in District 6, Mitchell Brownstein in District 7 and Ruth Kovac in District 8.

Notably, last week, The Suburban received a blog/press release from Nashen highlighting the mutual support between Housefather, Nashen, Brownstein and Kovac, a similar approach to which was taken in 2005, as all four were leaders in the Côte St. Luc demerger fight in 2004. All members of council were also referred to and praised by Housefather in that original release, although not by name.

"The group of four will run independent campaigns while supporting each other under the banner of 'proven and trusted leadership for the future,'" the original release said.

But a new release sent out by Housefather Monday puts all the current council on an equal basis. The mayor denied that there was any change between the two releases.

"I have always supported all eight councillors for re-election and they are supporting me," he wrote in an E-mail. "[In Nashen's release], my quote says how great my whole council team is, both are entirely consistent."

Housefather also pointed out that "our entire council in a city of independents without political parties actually has worked together well enough and effectively enough that we all support one another, which is clearly not the case in most other cities."