

MAYOR CAPONE ALMON ANNOUNCES UNPRECEDENTED ETHICS RULES FOR CAMPAIGN

Mayor April Capone Almon of East Haven has announced a series of new and unprecedented ethics rules that she is voluntarily imposing onto her own upcoming campaign for re-election in the spirit of creating a more open and transparent campaign season.

"A cornerstone of my administration as mayor has been raising ethical standards and creating a more open town government. That transparency will continue into my 2009 campaign for mayor," she said.

She plans to take extra steps beyond what is required by law to ensure transparency in her campaign fundraising.

"All campaign contributors will be required to fill out a disclosure form stating whether or not they do business with the town or the state. They will also be required to disclose their employer and occupation," she explained. "In addition, all of my campaign finance reports will be posted on my campaign website after they have been filed with the Town Clerk."

The ease of public access to the information is unprecedented in the town, and Capone Almon calls it an example of what an open government should look like.

"My hope is to give the public easier access to my campaign records and thus promoting transparency," she stated.

After first being elected mayor of East Haven in 2007, one of Capone Almon's first actions was to institute a town-wide gift policy for all town employees. Under the rules - mirrored after state policy enacted by Governor Jodi Rell - all town employees, including the mayor, are not allowed to accept gifts above \$25 from anyone doing business with the town.

Recently, she created a bipartisan ad hoc ethics committee consisting of both Republican and Democratic members charged with authoring a comprehensive code of ethics for all town employees, including elected and appointed officials. Capone

Almon said the committee will soon hold public hearings that will give East Haven citizens a chance to voice their input on what should be contained in the code before it is presented to the town council for ratification in the coming months.

Capone Almon remarked, "I've received a tremendous amount of positive feedback since instituting the new ethics policies in our town. It is my hope that these new rules I am setting for my own upcoming campaign is viewed as another step forward toward government transparency."