

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Berger-Girvalo making Route 7 safer

To the editor,

Following the latest fatality on Route 7, state Rep. Aimee Berger-Girvalo brought state, regional, and local leaders together to address safety along the corridor. But her efforts began long before this meeting; she has worked for years with Ridgefield Police Chief Jeff Kreitz to make the Ridgefield portion of Route 7, as well as other roadways in Ridgefield, safer. By convening Connecticut Department of Transportation officials, Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Danbury Mayor Roberto Alves, WestCOG representatives, and legislators from both communities, Berger-Girvalo recognized that improving this highway requires cooperation across town lines. The discussion focused on immediate measures to slow traffic and reduce the risk of head-on collisions, alongside longer-term solutions that consider residents, commuters, and local businesses.

Now that Ridgefield has received its own road safety audit, Chief Kreitz, working with town leaders, will be identifying immediate safety improvements that will be implemented quickly, as well as plans for longer-term solutions.

Berger-Girvalo is not an engineer or a road safety expert; her role is to bring the right people together, ensure their applications and communications to DOT are viewed promptly, and keep attention focused on the work ahead. She will continue to engage the Department of Transportation to ensure Route 7 safety remains a priority for our region. That sustained advocacy, alongside the expertise of transportation professionals and the leadership of local officials, is essential to moving these efforts forward.

Just one of the many reasons I am voting to reelect state Rep.

Aimee Berger-Girvalo.

*Sky Cole
Ridgefield*

Berger-Girvalo helping keep Ridgefield safe

To the editor,

In May 2022, a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. I had a little boy at home, and I could not sit still. Two days later, more than 30 Ridgefield moms told me they wanted to march, so I organized a walk down Main Street to the vigil already planned at Ballard Park. We weren't sure 50 people would come. Main Street filled with orange.

Before we stepped off, I introduced our state representative, Aimee Berger-Girvalo. She spoke and then marched with us. I told the crowd that being together is a first step and taking action is the next. Aimee took that seriously. In Hartford she voted for the 2023 gun safety law that restricted open carry and cracked down on ghost guns, she was part of the work that created a state behavioral health advocate, and she has brought more than \$2 million a year in state aid home to Ridgefield. Connecticut Against Gun Violence has endorsed her again this year.

That march also became Ridgefield Residents for Safer Schools, where parents of every political stripe work on school security, mental health and clear communication with families. Last year, Aimee's own town hall had to move from the library to Zoom because of gun violence concerns. Most questions that night were about school and gun safety, and she named our group as the active voice on this issue in Ridgefield. We can move a town hall to Zoom, but we cannot move our children to Zoom. Aimee gets that.

Ridgefield was named the saf-

est town in America in 2023 and the safest in Connecticut four years running. Keeping it that way takes both security and mental health support. Our families say we need both, and so does Aimee. I'm voting for her on Nov. 3, and I hope you will too.

*RoseAnne Nagle
Ridgefield*

Effectiveness and bi-partisanship serve Ridgefield

To the editor,

Since becoming Ridgefield's state representative, Aimee Berger-Girvalo has quickly distinguished herself as a leader in Hartford. Before the end of her second term, she was serving as acting House chair of the Transportation Committee — one of the General Assembly's largest committees. By her third term, she had been appointed the official House chair. That progression speaks volumes about the confidence her colleagues place in her leadership.

Transportation touches nearly every part of our daily lives, from the safety of our roads to the reliability of our commutes. These are consequential responsibilities, and Aimee has shown she is willing to take on the difficult work they require. Her efforts to advance bipartisan transportation legislation and improve safety for drivers and pedestrians demonstrate a focus on practical results.

Ridgefield deserves a representative whose influence in Hartford matches her commitment to our community. Aimee's rise to a major committee leadership role so early in her legislative career is something residents can take pride in. She has earned my support, and I encourage my neighbors to support her as well.

*Maureen Bartlett
Ridgefield*