



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 19, 2024**

**PETER VAZQUEZ, CANDIDATE FOR MONROE COUNTY CLERK, ACUSES JAMIE ROMEO OF DENYING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND WILL RESTORE SERVICES FOR LAWFUL PISTOL OWNERS OF MONROE COUNTY**

Peter Vazquez, candidate for Monroe County Clerk, promises to recognize lawful gun ownership in Monroe County as a constitutional right. It is not a privilege like Jamie Romeo says. “She continues to abuse gun owners by making it difficult to transact pistol permit business with her office. She is personally against the 2nd Amendment”, said Vazquez, “and she brings this ideology into the Clerk’s Office which is inappropriate”.

“When elected I will eliminate the need for an appointment to receive pistol permit services from the County Clerk’s office. With a full complement of staff there is no reason why an appointment is necessary. “Monroe County residents should have access to the Office when it is convenient to them”, said Vazquez. Customers say they often wait 4 weeks or more for an appointment.

Vazquez also promises to return services at local gun shows that Jamie Romeo took away for the sole purpose of harassing lawful pistol permit holders and gun shops. Pistols purchased or sold at weekend events should be added or removed from a permit on the spot rather than inconveniencing residents and making it difficult for federally licensed gun shops to conduct business. Under Romeo, a purchaser must go to the gun shop to pick up their purchase after adding it to their permit. Of course, waiting for an appointment makes the process unnecessarily more burdensome.

“These draconian policies were implemented by Jamie Romeo”, says Vazquez, “they are heavy-handed, abuses of authority and hurt legitimate business transactions in Monroe County. Romeo stopped staffing gun shows and mandated appointments to punish legitimate gun owners and gun shops. It is just one example of how the Clerk’s office has become a bastion of political ideology instead of focusing on providing excellent customer service.”

“It’s much more than just providing access to services from the Office”, says Vazquez, “it’s also allowing local businesses to thrive. Government at all levels should promote healthy commerce in our communities.”

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**Page 2**

Vazquez says he will make other customer focused changes when elected. “As County Clerk I will study the possibility of adding pistol permit services in the DMV offices and whether the simple transaction of adding or removing a pistol can be licensed to the larger sportsman outlets that may have an interest in providing the service much like they are licensed to conduct background checks for purchases of ammunition or a rifle.”

“As County Clerk, I will also work with state officials to make it possible for residents to apply for a background check when they visit the Clerk’s Office thereby helping to reduce the wait time to make a purchase at their preferred vendor”.

“This is the forward-thinking customers deserve and that Jamie Romeo refuses to provide”, Vazquez continued, “because she is incapable of thinking outside the box to improve services for all customers of the Clerk’s Office.”

“But we also must take a proactive role in the prevention of gun related violence and needless firearm accidents”. “As your County Clerk”, Vazquez furthers, “I will work with Monroe County SCOPE and NYS Gun Owners of America to set-up clinics for applicants, permit holders and the community to provide firearm safety education. Together with law enforcement, neighborhood groups and churches we will teach responsible gun ownership and work to get illegal guns off the streets and stop gun related violence. I will have a team in the Clerk’s office dedicated to this function.”

“We must also recognize that many lawful gun owners are disabled or veterans of our armed forces. I will insist that the county administration recognize disabled residents and honor the service of our veterans by installing dedicated parking spots on the sides of the county office building with access through the front doors”, added Vazquez.

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