

RIDGEFIELD COVID-19 TASK FORCE

DECEMBER 3, 2020

RUDY MARCONI

Rudy Marconi has been First Selectman of Ridgefield for the past twenty-one years and is the lead on the Ridgefield COVID-19 Task Force. Under Rudy Marconi's remarkable tenure as First Selectman, Ridgefield has emerged as one of Connecticut's best towns. It's the safest in the state, with top schools, strong finances and an arts scene that is the envy of other communities. Born and raised in Ridgefield, Rudy is a hometown success story. He is remembered as star athlete at Ridgefield High, and he went on to earn a degree in business administration. In 1986, Rudy returned to the town that raised him. He joined the family business, gaining a unique perspective on town life. Rudy's passion for public service led him to two terms on the Planning and Zoning Commission, and then two as a Selectman. He narrowly lost his first bid for the top job in 1997 but was elected two years later by a then-historic 63% of the vote and has served ever since, often running unopposed and always winning by wide margins. Mr. Marconi tested positive for the coronavirus in April and understands firsthand how devastating this disease can be. He created the Ridgefield COVID Task Force in order to provide Ridgefield with critical information which can be used to implement strategies to fight the virus.

ED BRIGGS

Ed Briggs is the Director of the Ridgefield Department of Health and has 42 years in the public health field. He holds a Masters of Public Health from New York Medical College, Health Policy & Management and an MS in Biology, Medical Laboratory Science. As Health Director, Mr. Briggs has been the lead in the charge to fight Coronavirus and is in daily communication with the State Department of Public Health as well as the Ridgefield Schools. He is responsible for implementing state and local Covid-19 rules. He also oversees all contact tracing and will be responsible for upcoming vaccine distribution programs.

DR. SUSIE DA SILVA

Dr. Susie Da Silva is the Superintendent of the Ridgefield Public Schools. Prior to serving as Superintendent, Dr. Da Silva was the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction in Darien, CT. Her background includes elementary principalships in Westport and Waterbury CT, classroom teaching at the elementary and middle school levels, and adjunct professorship at area universities. Dr. Da Silva's strong content knowledge and instructional leadership PK-12 has supported the education profession for teachers for the past 25 years. Dr. Da Silva's passion in education is built on her strong belief in equity and access for all students. Her work across urban and suburban communities has evidenced her strong advocacy and leadership in these areas. Dr. Da Silva's relationships with families, educators and children have been cherished by every community that she has touched.

DR. RICK LAWRENCE

Rick received his B.S from Stanford University in Chemical Engineering and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in Nuclear Engineering. His career has evolved from nuclear science to computer science to machine learning and, most recently, to quantitative finance. He worked in the nuclear science department at Schlumberger-Doll research facility in Ridgefield from 1984 to 1987. He joined IBM Research in Yorktown Heights, NY in 1987, where he held a number of

management positions, most recently as Distinguished Research Staff Member and Senior Manager, Machine Learning & Decision Analytics. From 2016 to 2019, he was President of PCIX, Inc, a New York City VC-funded startup that used machine learning to extract quantitative insight on the relationship between private-equity transactions and the performance of public markets. He brings his expertise in machine learning and data science to the Ridgefield COVID-19 Task Force with daily Ridgefield Statistics that help town officials make science-based decisions. Rick and his wife Margaret Sullivan have lived in Ridgefield since 1996, and their son Ian graduated from Ridgefield High School. They recently adopted a six-month-old puppy Oliver, rescued from Waco, Texas.

GERRI LEWIS

Gerri Lewis is a communications specialist who is the Public Information Officer for Ridgefield's Office of Emergency Management, the COVID-19 Task Force and the First Selectman. She serves on the public outreach committee of the Task Force in order to keep the community informed during the pandemic. Ms. Lewis has a passion for the town where she grew up and as an award winning freelance writer whose work has appeared in national magazines, she has published nearly 2000 Ridgefield and Connecticut related feature and news stories. Ms. Lewis studied Journalism and Communications at the University of Connecticut. She and her husband are both graduates of Ridgefield High School as are two of their three children.

DR. MAHER MADHOUN

Dr. Madhoun is a Hospitalist Director and an Infectious Disease Specialist for Stamford Health with over 17 years of experience in medical practice and medical teaching. Dr. Madhoun is dual boarded in both Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases and in addition to his M.D. Degree, he also has a Master Degree in Medical Science and a Master Degree in Medical Management. His passion for Infectious Diseases started very early in his medical career while in medical school and learning about microbiology. He fell in love with the field where he realized that it was deeply entwined with the social determinants of health and also provided him with an opportunity to be involved in global public health and work with underserved communities. His goal later in life is to volunteer at a Tropical Medicine Clinic in rural areas either in South America or Africa. He also is deeply committed to both teaching and to the medical education programs at Stamford Health where he is very involved in the education of medical and physician assistant students as well as medical residents in training. He serves as an Assistant Program Director for Inpatient Teaching for the Internal Medicine Residency Program, an Associate Professor at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons. Outside his hospital roles, he also serves as the Vice Chair for the Physician Executive Committee at the Connecticut Hospital Association focusing on physician well-being and discussing provider experiences throughout the state regarding COVID-19. Dr. Madhoun brings his Infectious Disease expertise to the Ridgefield COVID-19 Task Force and helps support the town's decision-making process with medical analysis during the pandemic. Dr. Madhoun lives in Ridgefield and is married to Caitlin who works at Stamford Health as an RN and has three kids ranging from the ages between 3 to 8.

