

#1

**COMPLETE****Collector:** ALN email link (Web Link)**Started:** Friday, September 09, 2016 7:31:45 PM**Last Modified:** Sunday, September 11, 2016 8:00:39 PM**Time Spent:** Over a day**IP Address:** 72.200.188.238**PAGE 1: Introduction****Q1: What is your first name?**

Jamie

Q2: What is your last name?

Bova

PAGE 2: Start

Q3: Whether or not you believe in climate change, facts are that the sea level is rising and so-called 100 year weather events are occurring with greater frequency. Studies have been performed detailing the risks to Newport's flood plain areas and identifying measures that can be taken to reduce those risks, yet nothing has been done towards implementing any of those measures. What will you do to move the City forward on this threat? Should there be a designated individual in City Hall to coordinate these efforts?

Jamie Bova - Newport needs to address our flood risks and implement measures to reduce that risk and improve our ability to recover. The flood risk affects multiple areas in Newport, thus requiring cross-departmental coordination. A single person tasked with coordinating across different departments to develop a clear cut plan and implement that plan would be an effective way to address the problem. However, I don't believe that this would need to be this person's only job or that a new employee is a requirement to complete this task. On City Council, I would introduce a resolution to begin a task force, with a designated chair, comprised of representatives from different city departments to move forward on this effort. The task force would draft the risk reduction plan that would include clear goals, a schedule of efforts, and milestones with deadlines attached. The task force would also collaborate with existing efforts being made by public and private groups. This will allow the city to provide leadership and coordination across the different groups. Additionally, there are multiple federal, state, and private grants available to help fund these efforts. The city should determine which of these grants would be appropriate for Newport and apply accordingly.

PAGE 3

Q4: Do you believe Newport's ordinances regarding panhandling are adequate? If so, do you think they are being adequately enforced? If not, what additional ordinances would you recommend?

Jamie Bova - I believe that panhandling needs to be addressed in our community but I don't believe that a new ordinance is an effective long-term way to do that. We need a long-term, focused effort to help reduce panhandling. This includes finding affordable housing solutions, introduction job-training opportunities, bringing more year-round businesses to Newport, mental health counseling, and more. From a fiscal perspective, enacting an ordinance may not be effective, either. Recently Providence stopped enforcing their panhandling ban after pressure from the ACLU and the ACLU sued the city of Akron, OH for their panhandling laws. It would not be beneficial for the city to engage in a drawn-out lawsuit.

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Q5: Two years ago an ad hoc Finance Review Committee recommended actions to increase and supplement Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from Newport's many property tax exempt organizations. Revenue can come either from State contributions under its PILOT program or from negotiated payments directly from the tax exempt organizations. To date, nothing has been done to act upon those recommendations. Will you actively promote revisiting and making progress toward implementing those recommendations? What measures would you support?

Jamie Bova - This is not the first time that the City Council hasn't acted on recommendations from a committee or commission and there is currently nothing in place that requires the City Council to do so. I believe that needs to change and the City Council needs to start acting on recommendations from our committees and commissions and interacting with them in an increased way. The Council needs to revisit the Finance Review Committee's recommendations on a PILOT program for Newport and decide if the information is still up-to-date enough to address. I would support the standing up of a PILOT Committee of Stakeholders, as recommended in the May 2014 Finance Review Committee to the City Council. If such a program is to be implemented in Newport, the appropriate stakeholders need to be involved for it to be successful.

PAGE 5

Q6: Do you support the efforts of the Off Broadway Neighborhood Association to eliminate benches in Equality Park? Please explain your answer.

Jamie Bova - I support the Off Broadway Neighborhood Association's efforts to get the city to work with them and engage the citizens on the planning of our parks. However, I don't believe that all benches need to be removed from Equality Park. Benches within the park will make the park accessible for all citizens in Newport and would expand the uses of the park, for example to allow the park to be used as a place to eat takeout from the local restaurants, helping their business. I do understand the frustration that OBNA expressed throughout their dealings with the city regarding the benches. OBNA members clearly stated on multiple occasions that they believed a bench on the sidewalk facing the street would harm the park and the neighborhood. Yet official city plans continued to depict that arrangement. The root of this issue is that OBNA members worked hard to clean up the park during Broadway construction and felt that their wishes were being disregarded during the planning and implementation phases of park construction. Going forward, it is imperative that the city engage all neighborhood associations during the planning and implementation phases of projects.

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Q7: The City has tried a number of ways to communicate with its public with varying levels of success. None have resulted in significant two-way communication. What measures would you promote to develop successful two-way communications between the City Administration and Newport residents and businesses?

Jamie Bova - The first step to increasing two-way communication is to modernize the city website. It is confusing and unnecessary to have two separate websites and it hampers civic engagement. Modernizing and consolidating the city website will allow residents and businesses to easily access the information they need and make it easier for them to engage with the city. A new website design needs to have a clear communication strategy behind it and be designed with transparency in mind. Ease of access will improve the frequency of engagement by the public. The communication strategy needs to apply beyond just the website.

Once a Chief Information Officer is appointed, this person needs to be empowered to make changes within City Hall as they spearhead public engagement campaigns. Meaningful two-way communication also means including residents and local businesses early in decision-making processes. To make this happen, Newport needs clear processes and guidelines that define how early and how often to engage the public. A well-defined and transparent communication strategy is the way to do this.

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Q8: Over the past two years significant progress has been made in merging administrative functions between the City Administration and the School Department. What additional steps in that direction would you promote?

Jamie Bova - Merging the administrative functions of the City Administration and the School Department has led to increased efficiency and lowered costs. It is important that as continue moving in this direction that communication between the City Administration and the School Department and the City Council and the School Committee is made a priority.

PAGE 8

Q9: The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is undergoing review and revision. Public participation in this effort has been minimal. As the state of Rhode Island has extended the deadline for submission of the plan to June 2017, what will you do to expand public awareness and increase participation?

Jamie Bova - This answer to this question is connected to the response regarding two-way communication. Both efforts require clear and focused action. There are three important actions the city needs to take in the effort to improve participation. First, there are multiple planning efforts by the city ongoing that have not been tied together or made clear to the public. Each effort needs to have a defined intent and purpose that is used in public promotion. If people don't understand what the city is undertaking, it is hard for them to provide feedback and comments. Second, there is no clear, publicized process for the public to comment on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan or for how these comments will be adjudicated and incorporated. If the public don't know how or when to comment and don't believe that their input will be taken seriously, they won't participate. Third, the city needs to move beyond passive, one-way communication. Ads in the newspaper and postings on Facebook and the city website are important, especially when detailed information is included, but we need to do more. There are organizations across Newport with engaged citizens that would participate if we went to them. Discussion by city officials via Facebook and/or NextDoor would also be included in this active push.

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Q10: Numerous reasons are given for young families and middle class families not moving to Newport, including: concern about the public school system, cost of housing, too few job opportunities and inadequate public transportation links to other cities in the general area. What would you promote to address these concerns?

Jamie Bova - The City Council and the School Committee need to work together to improve the school system and make communication a priority. When improvements and achievements do occur, they need to be advertised. Newport has a large hurdle to overcome concerning trust in our schools. The cost of housing is not just a home ownership obstacle but affects renters as well. The city needs to look into innovative ways to bring down housing costs. Multiple cities across the country have built specific housing for their workers, allowing them to live in the towns they work. This may not directly apply in Newport, but we should move forward with that mentality and make finding affordable housing a priority. In an effort to bring tech-based jobs to Newport, we also need to focus on job training. Rogers High School NACTC has various programs that allow our students to go directly from school to work but we should be looking at training for those that are already out of school. The development of the Newport Innovation Hub needs to be geared towards improving Newport's year-round economy and needs to be transparent. Currently, there is very little public information out regarding the Innovation Hub, making it difficult for residents to understand if it will improve our city.

PAGE 10

Q11: Do you support a rail and bike path extending from the train depot to the JT Connell Highway rotary? If so, what commitment of City and taxpayer resources do you think is appropriate? How should it be funded?

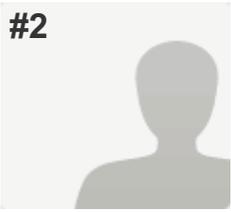
Jamie Bova - I support the bike path from the train depot to the JT Connell Highway rotary and firmly believe that we need to develop all transportation options in Newport. There are issues that haven't yet been identified or resolved but research shows that many communities have benefited from alternative transportation projects. There is substantial economic growth associated with bikeways. There are multiple federal grants available for large-scale infrastructure projects that could be used to fund the project. There are also local and national bike advocacy groups that provide funding and work with cities to identify funding options.

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Q12: Citizen concerns often arise when plans, projects and funding agreements are approved by City Administration and/or City Council before there is adequate public notification and opportunities for public input and questions. The public outcry about the fireboat is a recent example. Major issues related to the Navy Yard and North End Development will involve significant outlays of City resources, undoubtedly raising many questions. What will you, as a City Council member, do differently to ensure adequate notice and the opportunity for involvement and inquiry in order to avoid the public feeling disenfranchised from the decision-making process?

Jamie Bova - I believe that the biggest reason for the public outcry regarding the fireboat is the inherent distrust that many of our citizens have in our city government, as well as a general lack of confidence in government competence. Current notification rules for public hearings regarding ordinance changes are outdated and don't require the City Council to reach out to the public in a variety of ways. When a City Council docket is approved and posted, notification needs to go out beyond simply a post on the city website. Every docket should have a link posted across social media and sent out as a press release to the news media one week prior to the City Council meeting. There needs to be a digital repository of all city projects, grant applications, and more that residents can access, allowing ease of access to information. All relevant information would need to be accessible and announced a set number of days prior to a public hearing. It would also be beneficial for the city to reach out to local groups with expertise on a topic that comes up for discussion by the City Council. This would allow for local nonprofits and civic organizations to share their experience and knowledge with both the Council and local residents – improving the dialogue and allowing for more transparency.

#2



COMPLETE

Collector: ALN email link (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 2:59:42 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 11, 2016 8:02:49 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 70.183.174.241

PAGE 1: Introduction

Q1: What is your first name? John

Q2: What is your last name? Florez

PAGE 2: Start

Q3: Whether or not you believe in climate change, facts are that the sea level is rising and so-called 100 year weather events are occurring with greater frequency. Studies have been performed detailing the risks to Newport’s flood plain areas and identifying measures that can be taken to reduce those risks, yet nothing has been done towards implementing any of those measures. What will you do to move the City forward on this threat? Should there be a designated individual in City Hall to coordinate these efforts?

John Florez - Ninety eight percent of climate scientist agree that climate change is a reality. The sea level in Newport Harbor has risen 10 inches since 1938, this according to a statement made by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse who is a champion of environmental causes. From a local level there isn't much we can do. The resources necessary for combating the threat of rising sea levels can't be addressed solely on the local level. We should have a liaison from the City Administration that works with the state and federal delegations to tackle this issue.

PAGE 3

Q4: Do you believe Newport’s ordinances regarding panhandling are adequate? If so, do you think they are being adequately enforced? If not, what additional ordinances would you recommend?

John Florez - Panhandling ordinances are falling apart all across our state. The ACLU has even sued cities who have tried enforcing them. Councilor Leonard and myself have proposed a joint resolution to address this issue to no avail. According to our City Solicitor there's not much that we can do to enforce the local ordinances.

PAGE 4

Q5: Two years ago an ad hoc Finance Review Committee recommended actions to increase and supplement Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from Newport's many property tax exempt organizations. Revenue can come either from State contributions under its PILOT program or from negotiated payments directly from the tax exempt organizations. To date, nothing has been done to act upon those recommendations. Will you actively promote revisiting and making progress toward implementing those recommendations? What measures would you support?

John Florez - The majority of Council members don't have an urgency with implementing a PILOT program. I find this to be unfortunate since it was a recommendation of the Finance Review Committee. The Council should take a proactive position and create a much needed PILOT program similar to the ones created in other communities.

PAGE 5

Q6: Do you support the efforts of the Off Broadway Neighborhood Association to eliminate benches in Equality Park? Please explain your answer.

John Florez - Yes! The business owners and neighbors of this community have been through a lot over the last couple of years.

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Q7: The City has tried a number of ways to communicate with its public with varying levels of success. None have resulted in significant two-way communication. What measures would you promote to develop successful two-way communications between the City Administration and Newport residents and businesses?

John Florez - We have too many communication channels than need to be consolidated. Engage Newport does not see a significant amount or traffic. We should have a state of the art website where any and all information is accessible from. Anyone should be able to check on the status of a grant or a resolution. The website should be the sole communication tool for citizens to access any information they seek.

PAGE 7

Q8: Over the past two years significant progress has been made in merging administrative functions between the City Administration and the School Department. What additional steps in that direction would you promote?

John Florez - There's no question that the City's Finance Department should oversee the School's finances.

PAGE 8

Q9: The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is undergoing review and revision. Public participation in this effort has been minimal. As the state of Rhode Island has extended the deadline for submission of the plan to June 2017, what will you do to expand public awareness and increase participation?

John Florez - There's nothing worse than when a politician tells you that they will do something during an election cycle, and end up not keeping their word. I have put forth many resolutions during my brief tenure on the Council. Many of these are related to technology, innovation and public safety. While I think this is an important topic, there are many other ones that I have chosen to champion.

PAGE 9

Q10: Numerous reasons are given for young families and middle class families not moving to Newport, including: concern about the public school system, cost of housing, too few job opportunities and inadequate public transportation links to other cities in the general area. What would you promote to address these concerns?

John Florez - As a member of the Council I don't have a lot of say when it comes to our school system. However, I would encourage any School Board Member to push for strong STEAM programs. let's emulate the success other schools have had with similar challenges to ours. Famed Cosmologist Neil Tyson Degrasse said "STEAM programs are the economic engine of future economies.

PAGE 10

Q11: Do you support a rail and bike path extending from the train depot to the JT Connell Highway rotary? If so, what commitment of City and taxpayer resources do you think is appropriate? How should it be funded?

John Florez - I would be very open to utilizing local resources in conjunction with state resources. A bike path could be costly but it is an investment in the future of our community.

PAGE 11

Q12: Citizen concerns often arise when plans, projects and funding agreements are approved by City Administration and/or City Council before there is adequate public notification and opportunities for public input and questions. The public outcry about the fireboat is a recent example. Major issues related to the Navy Yard and North End Development will involve significant outlays of City resources, undoubtedly raising many questions. What will you, as a City Council member, do differently to ensure adequate notice and the opportunity for involvement and inquiry in order to avoid the public feeling disenfranchised from the decision-making process?

John Florez - Before such projects are proposed the Council and the public need to have essential information provided to us. If the Council is being asked to vote on any topic that will potentially utilize tax payer dollars, we need to be informed of all the details and nuances that pertain to that expenditure. I have made my position very clear to the Administration that this needs to be the course followed for all future purchases that are significant in cost.

#3

**COMPLETE****Collector:** ALN email link (Web Link)**Started:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 9:22:46 AM**Last Modified:** Sunday, September 11, 2016 8:04:38 PM**Time Spent:** Over a week**IP Address:** 72.200.189.75**PAGE 1: Introduction****Q1: What is your first name?**

Lynn

Q2: What is your last name?

Ceglie

PAGE 2: Start

Q3: Whether or not you believe in climate change, facts are that the sea level is rising and so-called 100 year weather events are occurring with greater frequency. Studies have been performed detailing the risks to Newport's flood plain areas and identifying measures that can be taken to reduce those risks, yet nothing has been done towards implementing any of those measures. What will you do to move the City forward on this threat? Should there be a designated individual in City Hall to coordinate these efforts?

Lynn Ceglie - The City of Newport has been very proactive in studying and identifying the problems concerning sea level rise and flooding in the areas of Wellington Ave, Bridge St, and Whitwell Ave and I have attended many public workshops conducted by the Utilities Department and consultants, CH2M where the problems and solutions have been detailed. Please see: <http://www.newportdrainageinvestigation.com>.

The problem is not a lack of information, a lack of engineering expertise, nor a lack of political will. The problem, frankly, is money. CH2M reports that the city needs to invest nearly \$100 million in infrastructure upgrades for two new pumping stations. The City Manager has been working with state officials in finding ways to fund these costly upgrades. All residents and businesses in the city need to recognize that these flooding issues do not just affect a couple of areas of the city. If, for instance, houses on The Point are damaged and must be abandoned, our entire tax base will be affected. The City Council must focus our federal and state officials on the need for funding.

To say that the City has done nothing about sea level rise and flooding is not correct.

PAGE 3

Q4: Do you believe Newport's ordinances regarding panhandling are adequate? If so, do you think they are being adequately enforced? If not, what additional ordinances would you recommend?

Lynn Ceglie - Panhandling is a protected right of free speech under the First Amendment and cities have been sued by the ACLU for restricting those asking for money in a non-threatening manner. The City of Newport has ordinances that prohibit anyone acting in an aggressive manner or causing a safety issue. I find it counterproductive fining someone who is begging for money. I believe this problem needs to be addressed by social service agencies and our health care system. I understand how unnerving it is to see people begging for money on street corners but the needs of the individual must be addressed. Many American cities face this problem.

PAGE 4

Q5: Two years ago an ad hoc Finance Review Committee recommended actions to increase and supplement Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from Newport's many property tax exempt organizations. Revenue can come either from State contributions under its PILOT program or from negotiated payments directly from the tax exempt organizations. To date, nothing has been done to act upon those recommendations. Will you actively promote revisiting and making progress toward implementing those recommendations? What measures would you support?

Lynn Ceglie - Various recommendations by the Finance Review Committee were submitted to the City Council. The State of Rhode Island allocates PILOT funds for a percentage of property taxes lost due to tax exemptions. While specific tax exempt organizations significantly contribute economically to Newport's tourist industry, I do believe we should continue to communicate with organizations about contributing directly to city coffers. Funds for targeted improvements or fees for services need to be investigated as well.

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Q6: Do you support the efforts of the Off Broadway Neighborhood Association to eliminate benches in Equality Park? Please explain your answer.

Lynn Ceglie - I have worked with the Department of Transportation (DOT), the City Manager, Department of Public Services, merchants and residents in addressing the location of benches along the new Broadway streetscape. The original plans did not account for today's environment of street cafes and many benches have been removed or relocated based on merchants' concerns.

I have also worked with the Off Broadway Neighborhood Association (OBNA) and I proposed not reinstalling the benches along the sidewalk in front on Equality Park and instead installing - on a trial basis - one bench inside the park. Parks commonly have benches for people to enjoy. Just to be clear, however, not all members of the OBNA are opposed to installing benches in Equality Park. An outcry by those wanting benches was heard loud and clear by those who want to eliminate the benches altogether.

As a compromise, I recommended one bench in the park since parks close at 9 pm or at dusk. The use of benches on sidewalks has no time limitations so loitering is more difficult to control. I have asked the City Manager and Chief of Police for greater vigilance of behavior problems in Equality Park as well as the parks across the street. The City will review the bench locations to determine if more or fewer are appropriate.

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Q7: The City has tried a number of ways to communicate with its public with varying levels of success. None have resulted in significant two-way communication. What measures would you promote to develop successful two-way communications between the City Administration and Newport residents and businesses?

Lynn Ceglie - The Report It! App has increased communication between the city staff and residents and I have heard only positive reviews of this application. The City Council, staff and Worldways Marketing have been working to increase communications with the residents and businesses through the Engage Newport website as well as the monthly newsletter that is available through email and in print at various locations around the City. Please see: www.engagenewport.com. The City needs a much more dynamic website and I am looking forward to a new design when the current contract expires.

Over the past two years, the Broadway Streetscape project has been hampered by communication problems between DOT, the City, the merchants and the residents and I implemented weekly meetings that all parties attend so that correct and timely information is disseminated. At these meetings, we discuss a wide range of topics from timetables to beautification and I believe this direct form of communication has been crucial in helping the project move forward in a positive direction.

The most productive meetings have been the gathering of small groups with city staff to resolve problems to create open communications and results.

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Q8: Over the past two years significant progress has been made in merging administrative functions between the City Administration and the School Department. What additional steps in that direction would you promote?

Lynn Ceglie - As a member of the City Council/School Committee liaison committee, I have seen both groups very receptive to the sharing of services. A facilities manager is now working on all city assets including the public school buildings. Councilor Naomi Neville has been instrumental in highlighting the need for shared services. The City Manager and School Superintendent meet regularly to discuss merging departments and sharing services particularly in the technology and finance arenas. We will continue to find efficiencies between the City and School Department.

PAGE 8

Q9: The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is undergoing review and revision. Public participation in this effort has been minimal. As the state of Rhode Island has extended the deadline for submission of the plan to June 2017, what will you do to expand public awareness and increase participation?

Lynn Ceglie - The City has stressed public participation and in fact, three public forums have taken place at Pell Elementary School: October 15, 2015, December 7, 2015 and February 23, 2016. All forums are posted in on the City's website, Facebook page, and newspapers.

Please see: www.newportchartingourcourse.com for a full description of the project to date.

Currently, Council members and staff have been working together in open meetings revising a draft of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for public review and comment. This is painstaking work. A schedule for public forums will be posted in the upcoming months for anyone to comment.

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Q10: Numerous reasons are given for young families and middle class families not moving to Newport, including: concern about the public school system, cost of housing, too few job opportunities and inadequate public transportation links to other cities in the general area. What would you promote to address these concerns?

Lynn Ceglie - The diversification of our workforce has been a major focus for this City Council as we have been working with the City Manager and the Director of Investments to bring year round technology jobs to Newport. The Innovation Center and Sheffield School initiatives are long-term projects that would provide opportunities for good paying jobs. The City Council allocated \$500,000 to jump start an initiative that would bring major private investors to the North End of the City.

Newport has 17% affordable and subsidized housing stock – far more than our surrounding communities. City staff and City Council are working with RIPTA to improve the inadequate transportation facility at the Gateway Center. Yearly, 500,000 people come through the Gateway Center and we need to make sure that facility is safe, attractive and resilient.

As a parent who had children attend Newport Public Schools from K-12, I would encourage parents to give the schools a chance and enroll their children. There have been many successes and accomplishments among students of Newport schools. Many have gone on to elite universities – some on full scholarships. For years I have urged the Newport Public Schools to do more to promote the many successes of the students and teachers and to inform the public of the many opportunities that the schools provide for their children in academics and the arts. We have dedicated administrators and educators whose mission is to see all Newport children receive the best education possible. Increasing professional development, STEM/STEAM programs and vocational training have been priorities for the school department.

PAGE 10

Q11: Do you support a rail and bike path extending from the train depot to the JT Connell Highway rotary? If so, what commitment of City and taxpayer resources do you think is appropriate? How should it be funded?

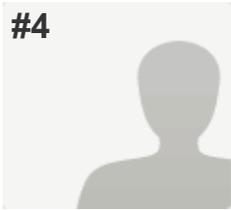
Lynn Ceglie - I believe I would support a rail and bike path but the bigger issue is the Newport Bridge ramp realignment. We need federal, state and private investors to secure funding to clear land blocked by the current design.

PAGE 11

Q12: Citizen concerns often arise when plans, projects and funding agreements are approved by City Administration and/or City Council before there is adequate public notification and opportunities for public input and questions. The public outcry about the fireboat is a recent example. Major issues related to the Navy Yard and North End Development will involve significant outlays of City resources, undoubtedly raising many questions. What will you, as a City Council member, do differently to ensure adequate notice and the opportunity for involvement and inquiry in order to avoid the public feeling disenfranchised from the decision-making process?

Lynn Ceglie - Normally, the City applies for grants throughout the year. Once the City Manager receives notification of approval of a grant that requires matching funds from the city, the funding request is put on the docket for a future council meeting. All dockets are available on the website one week before the council meetings. In addition, anyone can go to City Hall to read the docket. Council members often receive communication about issues from the public at this time. In addition, time is set aside for the public to comment at the Council meetings. Most controversial subjects receive public discussion including newspaper articles and the blogosphere before a decision is made by the City Council. The City also holds workshops on various topics that impact residents and welcomes public participation. I am open to any discussion or proposal to further transparency and public involvement.

#4



COMPLETE

Collector: ALN email link (Web Link)
Started: Monday, August 29, 2016 10:21:17 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 11, 2016 8:06:53 PM
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IP Address: 107.77.223.100

PAGE 1: Introduction

Q1: What is your first name? C. Andrews (Andy)

Q2: What is your last name? Lavarre

PAGE 2: Start

Q3: Whether or not you believe in climate change, facts are that the sea level is rising and so-called 100 year weather events are occurring with greater frequency. Studies have been performed detailing the risks to Newport's flood plain areas and identifying measures that can be taken to reduce those risks, yet nothing has been done towards implementing any of those measures. What will you do to move the City forward on this threat? Should there be a designated individual in City Hall to coordinate these efforts?

Andy Lavarre - You are mistaken. The facts are that mathematical variances have occurred in record documents that leave the perception that the sea level is rising. It is not. The REFERENCE POINT has been mathematically changed, indeed lowered, so the perceived sea level has risen with respect to datum. Please examine the following:

<http://tinyurl.com/h2g79dl>

The DATUM was lowered, so of course the HEIGHT ABOVE DATUM has risen.

Pure math. Where are the STEM schools when we need them?

So to answer the final question, NO: this is politically correct hogwash and needs to be called out as such.

PAGE 3

Q4: Do you believe Newport's ordinances regarding panhandling are adequate? If so, do you think they are being adequately enforced? If not, what additional ordinances would you recommend?

Andy Lavarre - Yes of course, they are adequate.

The problem is not the lack of ordinances, the problem is the lack of ENFORCEMENT.

And that is the problem with this city, state, Nation, and world. And that is why I am running for office, to give a voice to this perception of reality:

We have tons of laws. We don't need no more stinking laws. We need to enforce the laws that are already in place.

Going around being nice and politically correct doesn't work. These people are eating your lunch. If someone is purposely trying to hurt you they are not your friend and you do not need to be nice. Call them out and say NO!

Once again, rule sets, processes, and procedures established over thousands of years by many people trying to make life as good as it can be in general for everyone are now being violated and ignored throughout this society. Violating the principle of Fundamental Fairness: We all win or we all lose.

We can change those rules, but only at the same cost in blood, sweat, and tears that it took to put them in place in the first place.

So in the meantime, just follow the rules.

There are two basic approaches to life: deontological and teleological. Google it.

The deontological people are people like me, who follow the rules, including the rules to change the rules, so that everyone wins under the doctrine of Fundamental Fairness, starting with the Ten Commandments, then through the Magna Carta, to the Constitution and its first ten amendments (the Bill of Rights). Follow those rules and everybody wins.

The teleological people are those who will do anything they think they can get away with, devil catch the hindmost, end justifies the means. They deserve to be bitch-slapped, which I promise to do and have done habitually. What part of NO don't you understand???

Jay walkers, red light runners, noise violators, on and on an on. We don't need more rules, we just need more people following and enforcing the rules. The police cannot be everywhere. We the People need to speak up and speak out and call out misbehavior when it occurs.

NO MORE ORDINANCES. MORE ENFORCEMENT.

Q5: Two years ago an ad hoc Finance Review Committee recommended actions to increase and supplement Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from Newport's many property tax exempt organizations. Revenue can come either from State contributions under its PILOT program or from negotiated payments directly from the tax exempt organizations. To date, nothing has been done to act upon those recommendations. Will you actively promote revisiting and making progress toward implementing those recommendations? What measures would you support?

Andy Lavarre - As with my former comments on rules, we do not need more REVENUE. We need LESS EXPENSE. This city is replete with featherbedding and good ol' boy economics. I have given a long list of city issues:

<https://truthcourage.wordpress.com/>

What is the return on investment (ROI) of the various departments? What is the ROI on the Tree Warden?

This question ASS-U-MEs that the current budget needs to be covered. I question that. Let's look at what we can CUT.

PAGE 5

Q6: Do you support the efforts of the Off Broadway Neighborhood Association to eliminate benches in Equality Park? Please explain your answer.

Andy Lavarre - Oh puleeze. What an impossibly irrelevant and banal question to a person trying to improve the lives of everyone. i won't dignify it with an answer.

PAGE 6

Q7: The City has tried a number of ways to communicate with its public with varying levels of success. None have resulted in significant two-way communication. What measures would you promote to develop successful two-way communications between the City Administration and Newport residents and businesses?

Andy Lavarre - Hello: Hire a City Communications Officer:

<https://truthcourage.wordpress.com/priorities-top-ten-list-for-the-city-manager/cm2-communicate-with-we-the-people/>

The City of Newport Organization Chart does not contain a Communications Manager. Indeed, it does not even contain an IT department!

Yes these functions have been outsourced and yes things are better than before. But while you can outsource work you cannot outsource responsibility. The current process of having an editorial board approve changes makes the process unresponsive.

Hire a Communications Manager, reporting directly to the City Manager. Make it that person's responsibility to daily review the media, including a logging facility that will maintain a record of when and for how long that person was online. Make the situation be one in which the CM cannot possibly say "I didn't know" or "nobody told me".

PAGE 7

Q8: Over the past two years significant progress has been made in merging administrative functions between the City Administration and the School Department. What additional steps in that direction would you promote?

Andy Lavarre - The city government is too embroiled with dealing with day to day crises instead of sitting back and looking at the big picture. THERE IS NO PLANNING!

One solution is to split government into Current and Future Operations. The Current Ops people can deal with the brush fires, while the Future Ops people can spend time figuring out how to prevent the brush fires in the first place:

<https://truthcourage.wordpress.com/priorities-top-ten-list-for-the-city-manager/cm-priority-3-reorganization-into-current-and-future-operations/>

That kind of reorganization would allow Due Process to address strategic questions such as this In Due Course.

PAGE 8

Q9: The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is undergoing review and revision. Public participation in this effort has been minimal. As the state of Rhode Island has extended the deadline for submission of the plan to June 2017, what will you do to expand public awareness and increase participation?

Andy Lavarre - I would publish a PLAN, such as this:

<https://truthcourage.wordpress.com/problems-that-a-council-vision-for-the-north-end-would-solve/a-vision/>

and then promulgate the snot out of it to get people to engage.

PAGE 9

Q10: Numerous reasons are given for young families and middle class families not moving to Newport, including: concern about the public school system, cost of housing, too few job opportunities and inadequate public transportation links to other cities in the general area. What would you promote to address these concerns?

Andy Lavarre - Start with reducing taxes on business that would reduce the cost of housing, encourage businesses to hire people, and provide transportation links. Duh.

Once again, try this:

<https://truthcourage.wordpress.com/problems-that-a-council-vision-for-the-north-end-would-solve/a-vision/>

PAGE 10

Q11: Do you support a rail and bike path extending from the train depot to the JT Connell Highway rotary? If so, what commitment of City and taxpayer resources do you think is appropriate? How should it be funded?

Andy Lavarre - Sorry, once again try this:

<https://truthcourage.wordpress.com/problems-that-a-council-vision-for-the-north-end-would-solve/a-vision/>

Establish an underground parking facility under the North End and underground rail transport for the mile or so to the City. They did it in Crystal City, they did it at Heathrow, they did it under the English Channel, they can do it here.

Look: some dude blew into town, bought the Audrain building and the Viking, and blew out of town some \$30 million poorer. In one week.

There are tons of investors out there. Just ask Donald Trump. Get investors to invest in the vision and everybody wins, especially the tax payers if they don't have to pay for it.

PAGE 11

Q12: Citizen concerns often arise when plans, projects and funding agreements are approved by City Administration and/or City Council before there is adequate public notification and opportunities for public input and questions. The public outcry about the fireboat is a recent example. Major issues related to the Navy Yard and North End Development will involve significant outlays of City resources, undoubtedly raising many questions. What will you, as a City Council member, do differently to ensure adequate notice and the opportunity for involvement and inquiry in order to avoid the public feeling disenfranchised from the decision-making process?

Andy Lavarre - Absolutely a problem.

But it is a double edged sword:

1. The city is not doing enough.
2. But the PEOPLE are not doing enough either.

=====

Look: I have some five different websites. Two dedicated to addressing Newport's issues.

Try

<https://truthcourage.wordpress.com/>

or

<https://www.newportandbeyond.org/>

I have promulgated both far and wide. And how many responses? Maybe five.

KnowingNewport has done the same. Response? The sound of silence.

So we need to converge on a single source for dialog: KnowingNewport, Newport And Beyond, the City Web Site, what ever, I don't care, and then promote the snot out of it: Lead Follow, or Get Out of the Way: If you want to be heard, HERE is where you need to go, speak out, and speak up. Otherwise, silence is assent. Put up or shut up. All it takes for Evil to prevail is for good people to remain silent.

#5

**COMPLETE****Collector:** ALN email link (Web Link)**Started:** Monday, August 29, 2016 6:14:26 AM**Last Modified:** Sunday, September 11, 2016 8:10:38 PM**Time Spent:** Over a week**IP Address:** 68.226.83.65**PAGE 1: Introduction****Q1: What is your first name?**

Henry (Harry)

Q2: What is your last name?

Winthrop

PAGE 2: Start

Q3: Whether or not you believe in climate change, facts are that the sea level is rising and so-called 100 year weather events are occurring with greater frequency. Studies have been performed detailing the risks to Newport's flood plain areas and identifying measures that can be taken to reduce those risks, yet nothing has been done towards implementing any of those measures. What will you do to move the City forward on this threat? Should there be a designated individual in City Hall to coordinate these efforts?

Harry Winthrop - Flooding in areas of the City, no matter what the cause, is a significant issue. The easy measures to address this have been done but are only slightly effective. Adding staff to City Hall will not resolve a problem that has plagued the City for decades but bringing the resources of experts in this area is a must. Every plan of this type has an engineering component and a cost component. The engineering piece must be done first and then we can move on from there.

PAGE 3

Q4: Do you believe Newport's ordinances regarding panhandling are adequate? If so, do you think they are being adequately enforced? If not, what additional ordinances would you recommend?

Harry Winthrop - Panhandling is a blight on the City and must be controlled and eliminated. The reality of the situation is that ordinances by themselves will not resolve this problem and changes to state and federal laws are required. We must work with other cities and towns that are dealing with this same problem and draft state legislation to address this issue.

PAGE 4

Q5: Two years ago an ad hoc Finance Review Committee recommended actions to increase and supplement Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from Newport's many property tax exempt organizations. Revenue can come either from State contributions under its PILOT program or from negotiated payments directly from the tax exempt organizations. To date, nothing has been done to act upon those recommendations. Will you actively promote revisiting and making progress toward implementing those recommendations? What measures would you support?

Harry Winthrop - The City of Newport contributes far more to the State of Rhode Island than it receives in any form of State aid including PILOT funding. We must lobby the State to change its funding formulas so that those cities and towns that contribute the most receive the most

PAGE 5

Q6: Do you support the efforts of the Off Broadway Neighborhood Association to eliminate benches in Equality Park? Please explain your answer.

Harry Winthrop - I do not support this effort. Parks are public spaces to be enjoyed by everyone. If we eliminate benches in Equality Park which park will be next ?

PAGE 6

Q7: The City has tried a number of ways to communicate with its public with varying levels of success. None have resulted in significant two-way communication. What measures would you promote to develop successful two-way communications between the City Administration and Newport residents and businesses?

Harry Winthrop - We need a communication system that not only puts out information but receives and responds with information as well. Best practices from other communities should be reviewed. If there are solutions that already exist we should take advantage of them.

PAGE 7

Q8: Over the past two years significant progress has been made in merging administrative functions between the City Administration and the School Department. What additional steps in that direction would you promote?

Harry Winthrop - Any school function that does not deal with educational policy should be merged with the City.

PAGE 8

Q9: The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is undergoing review and revision. Public participation in this effort has been minimal. As the state of Rhode Island has extended the deadline for submission of the plan to June 2017, what will you do to expand public awareness and increase participation?

Harry Winthrop - Public participation is essential to any plan affecting our residents. The plan must be released to the public as early as possible and public hearings must be held to fully vet this plan.

PAGE 9

Q10: Numerous reasons are given for young families and middle class families not moving to Newport, including: concern about the public school system, cost of housing, too few job opportunities and inadequate public transportation links to other cities in the general area. What would you promote to address these concerns?

Harry Winthrop - The key to an attractive community is the quality of its education system and sound educational policy.

PAGE 10

Q11: Do you support a rail and bike path extending from the train depot to the JT Connell Highway rotary? If so, what commitment of City and taxpayer resources do you think is appropriate? How should it be funded?

Harry Winthrop - I fully support a rail and bike path and believe it should be a central component of the plan for the re-alignment of the bridge ramps. I also feel strongly that the visitors center should be moved to the North End and a user friendly inter-modal transportation plan be developed to keep cars out of the downtown.

PAGE 11

Q12: Citizen concerns often arise when plans, projects and funding agreements are approved by City Administration and/or City Council before there is adequate public notification and opportunities for public input and questions. The public outcry about the fireboat is a recent example. Major issues related to the Navy Yard and North End Development will involve significant outlays of City resources, undoubtedly raising many questions. What will you, as a City Council member, do differently to ensure adequate notice and the opportunity for involvement and inquiry in order to avoid the public feeling disenfranchised from the decision-making process?

Harry Winthrop - The development of the North End is the most significant project the City will undertake since the redevelopment of the downtown in the 70's and citizen involvement is absolutely essential. I will ensure that this effort becomes a citizen project and not an administration project by ensuring public involvement every step of the way with the development of the plan.

#6

**COMPLETE***Answers Entered Manually***Collector:** Web Link - Manual Entry 1 (Web Link)**Started:** Sunday, September 11, 2016 8:29:02 PM**Last Modified:** Sunday, September 11, 2016 8:37:56 PM**Time Spent:** 00:08:53**IP Address:** 70.188.137.90**PAGE 1: Introduction****Q1: What is your first name?**

Jeanne-Marie

Q2: What is your last name?

Napolitano

PAGE 2: Start

Q3: Whether or not you believe in climate change, facts are that the sea level is rising and so-called 100 year weather events are occurring with greater frequency. Studies have been performed detailing the risks to Newport's flood plain areas and identifying measures that can be taken to reduce those risks, yet nothing has been done towards implementing any of those measures. What will you do to move the City forward on this threat? Should there be a designated individual in City Hall to coordinate these efforts?

Jeanne Marie Napolitano - I do believe in climate change. The amount of poor air quality reported in LA and China and other places are the result of carbon footprints use of fossil fuels. There have been numerous studies done by the City which have targeted certain areas as being susceptible to flooding. Almost every meeting we are approving investment in our water and sewers to mitigate overflows. On Broadway we have invested in numerous measures to improve drainage. New standards are reviewed for areas which may be susceptible to flooding. We will continue to use the research of our experts to implement additional, measures which may be taken. This is a very expensive problem for those in affected areas of the City.

PAGE 3

Q4: Do you believe Newport's ordinances regarding panhandling are adequate? If so, do you think they are being adequately enforced? If not, what additional ordinances would you recommend?

Jeanne Marie Napolitano - I believe there are certain constitutional challenges which could mire the City in a very expensive lawsuit, such as the one pending in Providence. As I have spoken with a number of these individuals, it is obvious, in many cases they are young and able-bodied, and are not interested in any work related activity. We have more organizations in Newport under the umbrella of The Newport Partnership for Families which will help these individuals, if they truly wanted the help with housing, jobs, health issues, food, etc, but they must be willing to seek this type of assistance. I have participated with Church groups, Service Clubs, and other organizations to engage, support and help, but the real answer is to not just give money to panhandlers. I prefer to give my time and money to organizations that specialize in helping those in need. The police have more important duties to perform in our community and have been active in helping those truly in need. An ordinance would not solve the problem and most likely would lead to an expensive lawsuit which I will not inflict on the taxpayers of Newport.

PAGE 4

Q5: Two years ago an ad hoc Finance Review Committee recommended actions to increase and supplement Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from Newport's many property tax exempt organizations. Revenue can come either from State contributions under its PILOT program or from negotiated payments directly from the tax exempt organizations. To date, nothing has been done to act upon those recommendations. Will you actively promote revisiting and making progress toward implementing those recommendations? What measures would you support?

Jeanne Marie Napolitano - The State has increased their PILOT in recent years, however, if we included other entities, the set amount we receive would just become diluted, as it would be spread among all organizations, and would not increase the amount we receive. I have met with a particular large tax exempt to request additional money, however, it has not come to fruition. I will continue to work toward a resolution to this issue, as I believe they should be contributing.

PAGE 5

Q6: Do you support the efforts of the Off Broadway Neighborhood Association to eliminate benches in Equality Park? Please explain your answer.

Jeanne Marie Napolitano - Parks are for everyone to enjoy. Young and old alike. If one would like to sit in a park to enjoy the outdoors, it should have benches. A good number of neighbors who live in the area disagreed with the decision and were very upset upon hearing it. Our parks are owned by everyone in Newport, not just a particular block or organization.

PAGE 6

Q7: The City has tried a number of ways to communicate with its public with varying levels of success. None have resulted in significant two-way communication. What measures would you promote to develop successful two-way communications between the City Administration and Newport residents and businesses?

Jeanne Marie Napolitano - Council and the Manager has worked hard to improve our communications with our residents. Extensive meetings were held with the reconstruction of Broadway with businesses and residents. We have implemented the "Click/fix for those wishing to report issues, which has been met with moderate success. We also have Engage Newport on our website offering monthly commentary on the different activities the City is embarking in various neighborhoods. We also have developed email communications with those who sign up for the various road construction areas. We will continue to make improvements in our communication with residents. Suggestions from the public would be welcomed

PAGE 7

Q8: Over the past two years significant progress has been made in merging administrative functions between the City Administration and the School Department. What additional steps in that direction would you promote?

Jeanne Marie Napolitano - Council members Neville & Ceglie have continued with their monthly meetings with the School Committee and made tremendous progress in merging functions of maintenance, plumbing, electrical and facilities manager, which helps both the City and the Schools. We will continue to look at other areas in which we could collaborate for the benefit of the taxpayers, administration and students.

PAGE 8

Q9: The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is undergoing review and revision. Public participation in this effort has been minimal. As the state of Rhode Island has extended the deadline for submission of the plan to June 2017, what will you do to expand public awareness and increase participation?

Jeanne Marie Napolitano - We appointed a Comprehensive Land Use Committee which has worked diligently on this plan, in spite of many administrative changes within the City. Their meetings have been public and well-attended. The ideas from the public have been vetted and reviewed. We expect a report to be submitted within the parameters set up by the State. It will be made available to the public through our website.

PAGE 9

Q10: Numerous reasons are given for young families and middle class families not moving to Newport, including: concern about the public school system, cost of housing, too few job opportunities and inadequate public transportation links to other cities in the general area. What would you promote to address these concerns?

Jeanne Marie Napolitano - It is, and has been a concern of the Council for quite some time. We have made inroads with the School Department and I believe we are headed in the right direction to see major improvements in our schools over the next couple of years as they implement the programming of instruction for each of the schools. Housing costs are high in Newport, even though we have more subsidized housing per capital than any place else in the State of Rhode Island. Council has discussed providing a type of housing for young professionals and we will continue to work on that element. I have met with RIPTA several times, and look forward better connections with other areas of the State, including the train station in Wickford which offers low cost transportation to Providence and Boston. Finally, the North End redevelopment plan should be presented in the Fall, which will offer opportunities in newer types of industries for our young residents wanting to work in Newport offering full time, year round employment with benefits. There should be a variety of jobs, to fit the different skill sets of our younger demographics.

PAGE 10

Q11: Do you support a rail and bike path extending from the train depot to the JT Connell Highway rotary? If so, what commitment of City and taxpayer resources do you think is appropriate? How should it be funded?

Jeanne Marie Napolitano - I would support it, however, it would be important to understand the costs involved and for public input into the process. This appears to be an expensive proposition. We would want to explore all avenues of funding.

PAGE 11

Q12: Citizen concerns often arise when plans, projects and funding agreements are approved by City Administration and/or City Council before there is adequate public notification and opportunities for public input and questions. The public outcry about the fireboat is a recent example. Major issues related to the Navy Yard and North End Development will involve significant outlays of City resources, undoubtedly raising many questions. What will you, as a City Council member, do differently to ensure adequate notice and the opportunity for involvement and inquiry in order to avoid the public feeling disenfranchised from the decision-making process?

Jeanne Marie Napolitano - The issue of the fire/rescue boat was publicly discussed at our July meeting and voted on two weeks later in August at my behest. I invited anyone from the public that wished to ask questions or had comments to please come forward. Several people spoke both for and against. I stated we would not take a vote that evening as we received a very lengthy memo from the manager that day. I then requested all information be posted on our website so anyone from the public that wished to review or ask questions could do so over the next two weeks. There comes a time when council must vote on issues. We did so accordingly at the next meeting. as a representative democracy of the people of Newport.

The Navy property is still being discussed with the Federal representatives and we are hoping for an answer in the fall. The North End has been discussed publicly for years. A committee appointed by the City worked toward developing an RFP which resulted in engaging a firm to develop a plan to move forward. As stated previously, this should be presented to the public in the next few months.

#7

**COMPLETE****Collector:** ALN email link (Web Link)**Started:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 7:46:11 PM**Last Modified:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 8:41:10 PM**Time Spent:** 00:54:59**IP Address:** 71.161.229.72**PAGE 1: Introduction****Q1: What is your first name?**

Susan

Q2: What is your last name?

Taylor

PAGE 2: Start

Q3: Whether or not you believe in climate change, facts are that the sea level is rising and so-called 100 year weather events are occurring with greater frequency. Studies have been performed detailing the risks to Newport's flood plain areas and identifying measures that can be taken to reduce those risks, yet nothing has been done towards implementing any of those measures. What will you do to move the City forward on this threat? Should there be a designated individual in City Hall to coordinate these efforts?

Susan Taylor - Newport has the opportunity to be a national leader on this issue. I believe we should have a designated Chief Resilience Officer. Grant money is made available for such a position. I believe strongly that Newport needs to find solutions that address our unique threats, assets, and resources. We need our institutions, our universities, and most of all our citizens to understand the challenges and contribute to solutions. This will require a broadening of trust among our citizen groups, which demands a new approach to community outreach. It is clear that a cost-benefit analysis will have to be employed and for that to work we need to come together as a community, at the same time working to find funding to address both the short- and long-term solutions proposed in the CH2M report. Widespread community buy-in is essential, as sea level rise affects the entire community fabric.

PAGE 3

Q4: Do you believe Newport's ordinances regarding panhandling are adequate? If so, do you think they are being adequately enforced? If not, what additional ordinances would you recommend?

Susan Taylor - I am always concerned about ordinances that are vague and overbroad, which leads to selective enforcement. These errors can cost the City money through lawsuits, and diminish respect for the police and government. Until we have a larger societal solution for mental health issues and a strong social net, I believe we are going to have some panhandlers. That said, I would be happy to study the ordinances and the specific areas of concern, and see whether additional ordinances are warranted.

PAGE 4

Q5: Two years ago an ad hoc Finance Review Committee recommended actions to increase and supplement Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from Newport's many property tax exempt organizations. Revenue can come either from State contributions under its PILOT program or from negotiated payments directly from the tax exempt organizations. To date, nothing has been done to act upon those recommendations. Will you actively promote revisiting and making progress toward implementing those recommendations? What measures would you support?

Susan Taylor - I would work with not-for-profits and churches for an equitable solution. I do not understand why none of the recommendations of the Finance Review Committee have been implemented, and I strongly support an effort to increase tax revenue in this instance. I would explore both options – State contributions as well as payments negotiated directly with tax exempt organizations – to increase tax revenue to the City as Newport continues to improve the environment in which our nonprofits are able to operate.

PAGE 5

Q6: Do you support the efforts of the Off Broadway Neighborhood Association to eliminate benches in Equality Park? Please explain your answer.

Susan Taylor - I support benches in City parks. I recognize the concerns of the neighbors and as a city we should always appreciate their input. The City should work in concert with the neighbors to address concerns, but my approach is to try one, or some, benches to start with, not least because many people look forward to using a bench in a park, and address concerns as they come up.

PAGE 6

Q7: The City has tried a number of ways to communicate with its public with varying levels of success. None have resulted in significant two-way communication. What measures would you promote to develop successful two-way communications between the City Administration and Newport residents and businesses?

Susan Taylor - The City has a number of Commissions that invite public participation, however, citizens too frequently say they don't feel their opinions and participation are solicited. It takes a committed effort to do outreach into the communities affected, whether business or neighborhood associations. We should continue doing everything we are doing, and listen to our constituents during this season to learn what methods of communication would be more effective. I would use our media, the Chamber of Commerce, our neighborhood associations and the schools, as well as Next Door to get the message out. In addition, we have a wealth of talent and expertise in our not-for-profit organizations, and I would formalize a process whereby the City actively seeks input on issues related to a nonprofit's mission, collaborating with our nonprofits to learn which issues are of particular interest.

PAGE 7

Q8: Over the past two years significant progress has been made in merging administrative functions between the City Administration and the School Department. What additional steps in that direction would you promote?

Susan Taylor - I would ensure that the provisions in the June 10, 2015 resolution (Resolution of the Council No. 2015-75) are fully implemented, merging functions to recognize the City's responsibilities for the physical facilities as landlord, and the City's responsibility for maintaining the buildings. I support the City's involvement to ensure that our kids are studying in secure, well-maintained buildings. The involvement of the City's employees to oversee and maintain the physical facilities is a cost-effective measure.

PAGE 8

Q9: The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is undergoing review and revision. Public participation in this effort has been minimal. As the state of Rhode Island has extended the deadline for submission of the plan to June 2017, what will you do to expand public awareness and increase participation?

Susan Taylor - The impact of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan must be fully explained to the public, which may increase public engagement. The Plan will impact all zoning and land use decisions going forward so it is especially important that the public understand the wide-ranging impact of the Plan. I would widely publicize those points at which input from the public is welcome, in addition to purely informational public presentations. I strongly believe the City should use the full additional time offered and publicize as I have indicated in the answers to question 7.

PAGE 9

Q10: Numerous reasons are given for young families and middle class families not moving to Newport, including: concern about the public school system, cost of housing, too few job opportunities and inadequate public transportation links to other cities in the general area. What would you promote to address these concerns?

Susan Taylor - Supporting the public schools and creating meaningful jobs with a decent wage are two of my top priorities. I feel the two go hand in hand, as we need to offer education and training at Rogers that exposes those students to the opportunities available here in the community and sets them on the path to those jobs. Newport is a unique center, recognized nationally, for the trades associated with historic preservation – whether of buildings or of boats – and practitioners of these trades earn a good living. I would like to see a collaboration between IYRS and the carpentry program at Rogers, for example. I also believe we need to support and strengthen initiatives designed to achieve literacy by the end of third grade, which engage both parents and children as contributing members of the community. With this sense of buy-in we create a healthy community. We can consider proposals to restructure our tax base so that resident families are given more favorable treatment than second-home-owners. For public transportation, my understanding is that we are dependent on RIDOT to improve links with other localities, which requires help from state government. The City Council should work to make that a priority.

PAGE 10

Q11: Do you support a rail and bike path extending from the train depot to the JT Connell Highway rotary? If so, what commitment of City and taxpayer resources do you think is appropriate? How should it be funded?

Susan Taylor - The "Green Economy" bond on November's ballot would help with funding for a bikeway extending the length of the west side of Aquidneck Island, which I wholeheartedly support. To the extent that the rail and bike path from the train depot to the Connell Highway is linked with that, I am fully behind it. If Newport must contribute in order to realize the entire vision, I could accept that, but I would not want to see Newport responsible for funding one small piece of the vision without assurance that the overall vision for improved bike and pedestrian access over the whole of Aquidneck Island will be realized.

PAGE 11

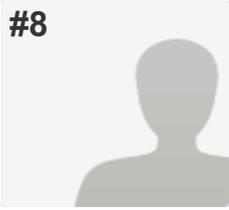
Q12: Citizen concerns often arise when plans, projects and funding agreements are approved by City Administration and/or City Council before there is adequate public notification and opportunities for public input and questions. The public outcry about the fireboat is a recent example. Major issues related to the Navy Yard and North End Development will involve significant outlays of City resources, undoubtedly raising many questions. What will you, as a City Council member, do differently to ensure adequate notice and the opportunity for involvement and inquiry in order to avoid the public feeling disenfranchised from the decision-making process?

Susan Taylor - This is a fundamental issue with the relationship between Newport City Government and Newport citizens – and one of the major reasons I'm running. As stated, although there are multiple commissions and citizens groups – all of them ways for the citizens to have input – nonetheless the citizens express feelings of disenfranchisement. The major avenues for outreach are:

- Media – print, other? What's Up Newport?
- Nonprofit organizations communicating with members
- Neighborhood associations communicating with members
- Neighborhood social media such as Next Door

What I perceive is that the City and the commissions could improve their outreach to citizens at large. I would seek a shift in the culture at City Hall so that citizens don't feel frustrated with a lack information about process. Queen Anne Square is a good example of a fully-formed plan being announced when the public was excluded from having input. The outrage about the process is toxic to healthy functioning, like the perception of obfuscation from City officials. We need to project the timelines for major projects coming up, identify choice points and decision timelines, and openly engage the public. I would seek the most effective means to accomplish that. We will be learning as we go, but I am committed to changing the status quo in this regard and engaging our talented and committed citizenry.

#8

**COMPLETE****Collector:** ALN email link (Web Link)**Started:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 11:39:30 AM**Last Modified:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 8:42:45 PM**Time Spent:** 09:03:15**IP Address:** 68.0.217.189**PAGE 1: Introduction****Q1: What is your first name?**

Justin

Q2: What is your last name?

McLaughlin

PAGE 2: Start

Q3: Whether or not you believe in climate change, facts are that the sea level is rising and so-called 100 year weather events are occurring with greater frequency. Studies have been performed detailing the risks to Newport's flood plain areas and identifying measures that can be taken to reduce those risks, yet nothing has been done towards implementing any of those measures. What will you do to move the City forward on this threat? Should there be a designated individual in City Hall to coordinate these efforts?

Justin McLaughlin - We have a better understanding today of the impact of climate change and sea-level rise and the nexus between macro-level environmental phenomenon and micro-level local impacts (e.g., flooding and increased storm intensity and frequency). It is a critical challenge that requires analysis of options and costs to ensure that appropriate and timely action is taken. However, before undertaking expensive "solutions," we need to ensure that actions taken contribute to both long-term as well as short-term threats. Studies and analysis of alternatives performed by the city has identified near- and longer-term actions that can be taken to address local impacts. What has not been identified is how to pay for them. The City Council in 2016 asked the General Assembly to increase the meal and beverage tax, which could raise as much as \$2 million a year that could be invested in flooding and storm water remediation. The council should continue to pursue this. We also need to work with our congressional delegation to get as much federal assistance as possible.

I don't believe the city needs an additional staff person at this time; however, the City Manager does need to ensure that the efforts of city staff are aligned and coordinated. A joint-department committee, with a designated lead, should be established, and should provide regular status reports. It should be responsible for working with all entities, governmental, educational and non-profit, so that we draw on the best management practices that other municipalities have found to be effective or promising

PAGE 3

Q4: Do you believe Newport's ordinances regarding panhandling are adequate? If so, do you think they are being adequately enforced? If not, what additional ordinances would you recommend?

Justin McLaughlin - The City Council sought the advice of the City Solicitor on this matter, and it was his considered opinion that existing ordinances were adequate to deal with this situation. And that changes to those ordinances to specifically address panhandlers would likely not survive judicial review. While the behavior of panhandlers per se is troublesome to many residents, the reality is that when panhandlers limit their behavior to the range of activity allowed under the First Amendment, and which are allowed under local ordinance, there is little that can be done. The rights protected by the First Amendment should be important to all citizens; attempting to limit the rights of a few citizens is inconsistent with the spirit and intent of our Constitution. That in no way, however, precludes our local authorities from enforcing local ordinances that apply to panhandlers. Enforcement of those ordinances, however, will always have to be balanced with enforcement of other law enforcement requirements.

What we need is a society in which there are no mental health or alcohol abuse issues confronting us in the public space. We can look to our social service agencies to reach out to these people and to offer them long-term solutions to their problems. More often than not, however, it hasn't worked. So, we have to keep trying.

PAGE 4

Q5: Two years ago an ad hoc Finance Review Committee recommended actions to increase and supplement Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from Newport's many property tax exempt organizations. Revenue can come either from State contributions under its PILOT program or from negotiated payments directly from the tax exempt organizations. To date, nothing has been done to act upon those recommendations. Will you actively promote revisiting and making progress toward implementing those recommendations? What measures would you support?

Justin McLaughlin - The Finance Review Committee forwarded its roughly 26 recommendations, of which four related to PILOT, to the City Council in May. The FRC conducted its review during the tenure of City Manager Jane Howington and submitted its report just a few weeks before Howington resigned. The city manager position was subsequently filled by an acting city manager for the following eighteen months. During that period the City Council voted to establish a permanent FRC, with the hope that it would assist the city in refining and pursuing FRC recommendations. Unfortunately, only three residents volunteered to serve on that committee. Meanwhile, the acting city manager had his attention focused on the Sheffield Accelerator project and the North-End Innovation Hub. Had Howington, who had relevant PILOT experience, remained, I suspect progress would have been made. But her departure, failure to create the permanent FRC, and having an acting city manager whose attention was focused on other areas, provided the wrong synergy.

Moving forward, the City Council needs to vote that pursuit of PILOT, or PILOT-like, contributions from certain organizations (e.g., the Preservation Society of Newport County and Salve Regina University) is a priority. While the City Manager will be responsible for conducting negotiations with those organizations, the City Council needs to establish it as a priority, define outcomes they would like to see, and identify a timeframe in which it should be accomplished. One concept that should be explored is a traffic-impact fee, which could potentially raise a substantial sum.

PAGE 5

Q6: Do you support the efforts of the Off Broadway Neighborhood Association to eliminate benches in Equality Park? Please explain your answer.

Justin McLaughlin - I do not support efforts "to eliminate benches in Equality Park." Equality Park is a city park and an integral part of the Broadway streetscape project. Placement of benches along Broadway and in the contiguous parks has always been part of the overall plan. I also believe, however, that the interests and concerns of residents, especially abutters and those expressed through the agency of a neighborhood group, need to be considered and respected. People who live in a neighborhood are in the best position be aware of issues that need to be addressed during implementation of projects in their neighborhood. Those interests and concerns, however, need to be considered along with the overall objectives of a plan. In this situation, there is a valid concern about what might happen if benches are placed in the Equality Park: a concern based on previously observed behavior. Consequently, the city has a responsibility to take appropriate action to address undesirable behavior that might result following installation of benches. The best course of action is to install benches and then ensure that they add to the overall enjoyment of residents in general and that undesirable behavior does not diminish that enjoyment. In other words, don't allow anticipation of a problem to influence what is done, but also don't fail to be prepared to respond to what can be anticipated.

PAGE 6

Q7: The City has tried a number of ways to communicate with its public with varying levels of success. None have resulted in significant two-way communication. What measures would you promote to develop successful two-way communications between the City Administration and Newport residents and businesses?

Justin McLaughlin - City government needs to do a better job of listening to what its residents are saying and in communicating relevant information in a timely fashion. While many city employees do an outstanding job, not all know what good communications involves, and not all appreciate the public's right to know what government is doing. Concurrently, residents need to do a better job of listening to what the city is saying. It is not always easy to stay abreast of what of happening, but just as government has a critical responsibility to ensure the community is informed about what it is doing, residents have a responsibility to invest in staying informed.

Communications improvement efforts need to be organized and led by the City Manager. He needs to assess what is being done and identify opportunities for improvement, and he should invite resident participation in the improvement process. For example: an improved unified website, better website organization, more timely meeting announcements, more press availability, more meetings with neighborhood groups. However, designing new communications tools and processes won't work unless there is a clear understanding of what actually needs to be done and how to do it. If needed tools and skills are missing, then get those tools and and invest in training to address skills-gaps. There need to be goals, which will guide implementation strategies, as well as performance measures, which will tell us what is working and where improvement is needed. And the City Council has to hold the City Manager accountable for success.

PAGE 7

Q8: Over the past two years significant progress has been made in merging administrative functions between the City Administration and the School Department. What additional steps in that direction would you promote?

Justin McLaughlin - Over the last several years the city has come to recognize and accept that as the landlord per se of our schools, the city is responsible for maintenance of those properties. As a result, the city has taken on many responsibilities that previously were assumed by the School Department. This has allowed the School Department to focus on its core competency – educating our children. As a result of a resolution adopted in June 2015 by both the City Council and the School Committee during the annual budget adoption process, the city and schools committed to consolidating technology services, facilities maintenance, and purchasing functions, to align payroll processes, and to implement accounting and payroll processes under the direction of the City Finance Director with the support of the Superintendent of Schools. Most of that planned activity has occurred while work to achieve complete integration continues. Ultimately, the city should absorb all finance accounting functions of the school department. The city finance department has demonstrated its ability to assume these duties and full implementation will provide assurance to all concerned that school finances are accounted in a timely, accurate, and transparent fashion.

PAGE 8

Q9: The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is undergoing review and revision. Public participation in this effort has been minimal. As the state of Rhode Island has extended the deadline for submission of the plan to June 2017, what will you do to expand public awareness and increase participation?

Justin McLaughlin - I am currently involved in the CLUP draft-review, along with other city councilors, City Manager, Planning Board members, and city staff. That group is reviewing the draft that has been prepared by Matrix, the consultant engaged to assist the city in this process. While members of the public do not get to actively participate in the review sessions, they are welcome to attend and everyone, not just those who attend the review sessions, are encouraged to submit their comments to the city planner.

Earlier in the process public events were conducted by Matrix to provide an opportunity for residents to share their perspectives and make recommendations. Concurrently, the Newport Open Space initiative conducted events led by Sasaki that focused on related community interests. Those events were advertised to the public and several hundred people participated in them.

Once the draft review is complete, the final draft will be reviewed by the Planning Board and then submitted to the City Council, at which time public hearings will be conducted prior to any vote to adopt. These milestones are likely to occur in October 2016 and public notification is already being published. So, how do we get residents to “engage” in the process? We need to actively convey that the City cares about public participation and wants to hear what residents have to say and ensure that they know when there will be opportunities to provide comments and input. The City Manager needs to ensure that those opportunities are communicated early and frequently.

PAGE 9

Q10: Numerous reasons are given for young families and middle class families not moving to Newport, including: concern about the public school system, cost of housing, too few job opportunities and inadequate public transportation links to other cities in the general area. What would you promote to address these concerns?

Justin McLaughlin - Good schools will make Newport attractive to families with school-aged children. The most important thing the City Council can do is to robustly fund our schools and work to create an expectation of outstanding results. Funding our schools to allow for full-day kindergarten and expansion of pre-kindergarten education opportunities are goals we should strive to achieve.

Ironically, the more the City Council does to ensure that Newport is a great place to live, the greater the likelihood that housing values will increase. While there are property-tax schemes that could be implemented to reduce taxes on owner-occupied homes, which we should explore, those actions are not expected to have an impact on the cost of housing per se: the marketplace has and will continue to do that.

One example of good jobs that are already available is found at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center and the contractors who support NUWC. They would prefer to hire local graduates because they provide greater continuity. Unfortunately, however, many jobs get filled by people who move here to take them. Local youth need to prepare themselves for the good jobs that are available.

While the City is currently engaged in several initiatives that have the potential to result in new and varied employment opportunities, the most important things the city can do to support future employment opportunities is to ensure that we maintain and modernize our infrastructure, provide high quality city services, operate efficiently with reasonable taxes and fees: that will motivate businesses to locate in Newport.

PAGE 10

Q11: Do you support a rail and bike path extending from the train depot to the JT Connell Highway rotary? If so, what commitment of City and taxpayer resources do you think is appropriate? How should it be funded?

Justin McLaughlin - The costs of those proposals need to be determined before considerations of any plans for a bike trail or light-rail installation along the existing rail right of way, While creation of a bike trail might be possible in the short term, any light-rail installation would need to be considered in conjunction with the realignment of the Pell Bridge ramps followed by the relocation of Gateway visitors center and the creation of a satellite parking area at that site. What we need is a cost-benefit analysis of such an arrangement and a clear understanding of how the facilities would be paid for. It is not clear when, or even if, the realignment of the bridges ramps will occur, but information provided in the current RI DOT Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) suggests that the projected will cost roughly \$35 million, which is not currently funded, and take five years to complete.

In the short term, we should explore what it would take to complete a bike path on the rail right-of-way. We need to work with the owner of the right-of-way, the State of Rhode Island, and seek funding from all sources to make this happen as soon as possible. And because development of bike paths isn't a natural core competency of city government, we need to partner with organizations (e.g., Bike Newport and the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission) that have related knowledge and experience that can help us get this done.

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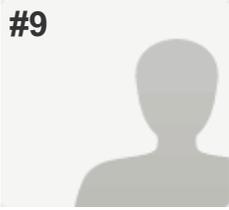
Q12: Citizen concerns often arise when plans, projects and funding agreements are approved by City Administration and/or City Council before there is adequate public notification and opportunities for public input and questions. The public outcry about the fireboat is a recent example. Major issues related to the Navy Yard and North End Development will involve significant outlays of City resources, undoubtedly raising many questions. What will you, as a City Council member, do differently to ensure adequate notice and the opportunity for involvement and inquiry in order to avoid the public feeling disenfranchised from the decision-making process?

Justin McLaughlin - Because of the nature of our representative government residents to a large extent are disenfranchised from the decision-making process. Elected representatives are the ones responsible for researching issues, showing up and voting. They, however, have a concurrent responsibility to seek out and consider the thoughts, opinions and concerns of those they represent. Timing is frequently the primary cause of misunderstanding about the process: matters that come before the City Council seem to emerge out of nowhere. The reality is that they are usually the culmination of months of effort by various members of the staff and that nothing is decided until the City Council votes to adopt or approve something during a public meeting.

The City Council is required to behave in an open and transparent fashion: dockets are published in advance of meetings, the public is permitted to speak at meetings, and meeting results are available to the public in minutes, press reports, and videos. And matters of particular importance and interest to the public are normally covered by the press in advance of formal consideration by the city council.

My phone numbers and email addresses are a matter of public record. I meet with constituents whenever they asked. I regularly participate in a variety of public and social events to avail myself of the opportunity to meet residents and to hear what they have to say. I have been a strong advocate for public participation in the decision making process and will continue to do so in the future.

#9

**COMPLETE****Collector:** ALN email link (Web Link)**Started:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 11:55:39 PM**Last Modified:** Wednesday, September 14, 2016 8:38:58 AM**Time Spent:** 08:43:19**IP Address:** 24.250.32.46**PAGE 1: Introduction****Q1: What is your first name?**

Marco

Q2: What is your last name?

Camacho

PAGE 2: Start

Q3: Whether or not you believe in climate change, facts are that the sea level is rising and so-called 100 year weather events are occurring with greater frequency. Studies have been performed detailing the risks to Newport's flood plain areas and identifying measures that can be taken to reduce those risks, yet nothing has been done towards implementing any of those measures. What will you do to move the City forward on this threat? Should there be a designated individual in City Hall to coordinate these efforts?

Marco Camacho - Climate change is real, sea levels are rising, and yes we've already taken action. To say "nothing has been done" is false. Examples: The Point neighborhood seawalls are right now being upgraded and fortified, and so is Cliff Walk. The Broadway Streetscape project incorporates improved storm water capture and permeable surfacing. Similar storm water infrastructure is already approved for Hillside Ave/Miantonomi Park as it's also prone to flooding during heavy rain events. The Aquidneck Island Planning Commission (in partnership with Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth, Aquidneck Land Trust, and Clean Ocean Access) has secured a \$1.16 Million EPA grant to improve Island storm water management. The \$1.8 million solar panel installation at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is approved and will be completed by 2018, further reducing our City's electric bill and carbon footprint. If anything, our citizens are tired of all the construction, not frustrated by lack of action. That said, these current and future projects are multi-year and multi-million dollar efforts. They are (and should continue to be) under City Manager Nicholson's overall command and control with the City's department heads as subject matter experts executing on their respective portions of the projects.

PAGE 3

Q4: Do you believe Newport's ordinances regarding panhandling are adequate? If so, do you think they are being adequately enforced? If not, what additional ordinances would you recommend?

Marco Camacho - Nationwide, panhandling ordinances have been a hotly contested subject. Some of the cash awards for these ACLU court victories have been quite substantial, and Providence just recently lost in court to the ACLU for violating panhandler's civil rights. I believe that we as a City must continue to balance these constitutionally protected panhandling rights with the health and welfare of both the panhandler and the people. That means no blocking of sidewalks or intersections, and no aggressive solicitation allowed. I would also ask that citizens immediately put a call into our police if any aggressive behavior is witnessed and that panhandler will be dealt with accordingly.

PAGE 4

Q5: Two years ago an ad hoc Finance Review Committee recommended actions to increase and supplement Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from Newport's many property tax exempt organizations. Revenue can come either from State contributions under its PILOT program or from negotiated payments directly from the tax exempt organizations. To date, nothing has been done to act upon those recommendations. Will you actively promote revisiting and making progress toward implementing those recommendations? What measures would you support?

Marco Camacho - The low hanging fruit on PILOT funds in Newport is undoubtedly the Preservation Society, but has historically been the hardest fruit to pick. There's no doubt that the Preservation Society is a vital and contributing part of the economic engine of Newport. The tourists they bring in spend money in hotels, restaurants and nightlife, and we keep a multi-million dollar portion of those meal, beverage and hotel taxes right here in Newport as a result. If the Preservation Society ultimately wins their court battle to build the controversial Breakers Welcome Center, they'll be in an even better financial position than now to pay PILOT. And since more tourists also contribute to more traffic and more stress on the abutting neighborhood, relief in the form of PILOT will be both necessary and proper to collect. If the Preservation Society loses, it'll be years before the organization recoups its financial losses and years before PILOT is even an option again. Outside of PILOT funds, we as a City are and will continue to seek financial assistance in other forms. Two examples are the Pell Bridge realignments in the North End and the Innovate Newport technology and business accelerator project at the old Sheffield School. Millions of dollars can flow to Newport from the State in the form of free land, tax incentives, and direct transportation infrastructure investment. I believe the powers up in Providence would rather put money into an asset like the North End Innovation Hub that will actually grow and diversify our State economy, rather than absorb another liability in the form of more PILOT to Newport.

PAGE 5

Q6: Do you support the efforts of the Off Broadway Neighborhood Association to eliminate benches in Equality Park? Please explain your answer.

Marco Camacho - No, and the reason for the no is that the new benches in Equality Park will have dividers down the middle that will prohibit sleeping. Those who wish to sit will be able to do so comfortably on the new park benches. This proposal was vetted with the neighborhood at their monthly meeting and I believe it to be a good compromise.

PAGE 6

Q7: The City has tried a number of ways to communicate with its public with varying levels of success. None have resulted in significant two-way communication. What measures would you promote to develop successful two-way communications between the City Administration and Newport residents and businesses?

Marco Camacho - To say "none have resulted in significant two-way communication" is just false. We meet weekly with Broadway merchants at City Hall. We contracted Newport's own Worldways, Inc. to rebrand Broadway and create the BroadwayNewport.com website along with its Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts, and we did so both for and with the Broadway businesses. The first ever Broadway Street Fair is October 8th. Our "Report It!" online and mobile app was an instant two-way communication success. We continue to build out and improve our Engage Newport, Facebook, and Instagram platforms, as well as traditional print media. City Council and Administration continue to accept and engage in face-to-face neighborhood meetings. We hold 22 publicly broadcast Citizen's Forums per year at the beginning of every City Council regular meeting. Our City Manager maintains an open door policy with all Newport citizens, and the names, home addresses, emails and phone numbers of the entire City Council is a matter of public record. As always, please give me a call. We can get a coffee and talk about what's on your mind. I don't talk over you like some know-it-all politician. I'm here to listen. 401-924-4077 is my cell.

PAGE 7

Q8: Over the past two years significant progress has been made in merging administrative functions between the City Administration and the School Department. What additional steps in that direction would you promote?

Marco Camacho - Any and all redundancies related to facilities maintenance, finance, and IT support. I want our educators focused on educating our youth. These support roles, although important, are an unnecessary distraction on the school side. However, we need to be mindful that City Hall and Newport Public Schools are separate as a matter of law with separately elected and accountable officials for a reason.

PAGE 8

Q9: The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is undergoing review and revision. Public participation in this effort has been minimal. As the state of Rhode Island has extended the deadline for submission of the plan to June 2017, what will you do to expand public awareness and increase participation?

Marco Camacho - Actually, public participation has been quite good. Public workshops in October, December, and February brought in large crowds and active citizen participation. We've continued to meet as a City Council and Planning Board subcommittee at publicly open and scheduled meetings at City Hall every couple of weeks for several months now. At these meetings we've taken the draft Comp Plan chapter-by-chapter and encouraged citizen input anywhere and everywhere along the way. We even have a dedicated site (newportchartingourcourse.com) that provides real time updates and the ability to submit comments right from your home computer 24/7. Lastly, the Planning Board and City Council will have another advertised public hearing in the coming weeks for citizens to review and comment on the finalized draft before submission to the State. Beyond this, how do you force citizen attendance? City Hall works for the People, not the People for City Hall. We have our orders from the hundreds who already participated, and we will deliver a finished product as our citizens rightfully expect this representative government to do.

PAGE 9

Q10: Numerous reasons are given for young families and middle class families not moving to Newport, including: concern about the public school system, cost of housing, too few job opportunities and inadequate public transportation links to other cities in the general area. What would you promote to address these concerns?

Marco Camacho - Here's my pitch: Newport Public School funding and performance was the number one reason for families to move out. Not anymore. We've successfully executed a massive cash infusion in our schools, reversed cuts to programs, and expanded STEAM and VocTech. Pell and Thompson were built in the 21st century, and Rogers is receiving multi-million dollar upgrades as we speak. Our diverse student body is our strength and a true representation of the global market. Yes, Newport is expensive. But we have the highest and newest concentration of affordable housing in the State. Gone is the old Tonomy Hill and Park Holm. Take a drive down Hillside Ave and see the award winning Newport Heights, Miantonomi Park, and Crowley MET School. You'll like what you see. Looking to buy? Off-Broadway and North End offer some of the most affordable home purchase opportunities on the Island, not to mention the lowest property taxes on the Island, and nearly the lowest in the State. You don't have to be rich to live richly in Newport. Be a part of our vision for a new economy. We are diversifying to add opportunities for start-ups in our Innovate Newport space. The North End Innovation Hub will provide jobs in cyber security, defense, and climate change research and resiliency. Lastly, even if your career has you working in Providence, Quonset, or even Boston, our expanded public transit services will connect you there and bring you back home to Newport.

PAGE 10

Q11: Do you support a rail and bike path extending from the train depot to the JT Connell Highway rotary? If so, what commitment of City and taxpayer resources do you think is appropriate? How should it be funded?

Marco Camacho - Yes, I do. But why stop there? The Aquidneck Island Planning Commission has already developed an Island Bikeway Plan that currently runs via Third and Washington Streets. Unfortunately, you'll be sharing those streets with cars. So, a dedicated bike path down the old tracks free of vehicular traffic would be most welcome. I believe a majority of this funding can come from a partnership between the AIPC, the van Beuren Foundation, Bike Newport, and RIDOT. As Council Liaison to the AIPC, I welcome the opportunity to help facilitate it. Details on the proposed bikeway can be found at: www.aquidneckplanning.org/portfolio/aquidneck-island-bikeway/

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Q12: Citizen concerns often arise when plans, projects and funding agreements are approved by City Administration and/or City Council before there is adequate public notification and opportunities for public input and questions. The public outcry about the fireboat is a recent example. Major issues related to the Navy Yard and North End Development will involve significant outlays of City resources, undoubtedly raising many questions. What will you, as a City Council member, do differently to ensure adequate notice and the opportunity for involvement and inquiry in order to avoid the public feeling disenfranchised from the decision-making process?

Marco Camacho - The North End redevelopment is a multi-year and multi-million dollar investment that will naturally require extensive citizen involvement. City Hall, developers, and abutters will work together to fully plan out our North End's future. As your First Ward Councilor, this is my primary role as we move forward on our Innovation Hub plans. Fortunately, we already have a successful example to build upon. Our weekly Broadway redevelopment meetings at City Hall between Council liaisons, City Administration, RIDOT, neighborhood leaders, business owners, and the press has proven to be successful. I intend to carry this positive momentum forward into our North End planning as well.
