



Enhancing Community Through Knowledge

2020 Neptune Beach Candidate Written Questions

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- 1. What qualifications in terms of education, experience, and prior community service do you bring to your candidacy for public office? Please explain what motivates you to run for office at this time?**

A: I'm running for Neptune Beach City Council because local government matters. Policy matters. Process Matters. Local government should provide quality **infrastructure and services**, keep a **low regulatory environment** that allows businesses to succeed and **avoid infringing on the rights of residents**. The Council should remember that it may be their budget, but it's YOUR money!

- 2. K-Mart Property: What would you like to see happen to the old K-Mart property?**

A: First, let me say that I would NOT like to see high density residential at 500 Atlantic, or anywhere else in Neptune Beach. Beyond that, it's up to the property owner/developer. Personally, I would love to see a walkable area with green space, shopping and commercial/professional office space. Possibly a row or two of Single Family Attached Residences, which could act as a buffer between Neptune By the Sea residents and the commercial area. A set off parking garage near the Lemon Street extension with a walk-over Third Street would allow more customers for our struggling small businesses while moving toward fewer cars East of Third so Beaches Town Center can be more walkable. These are just ideas that I think could be good for everyone, but, again, it is not our choice to make.

- 3. Vision Plan: What is your opinion of the Dover-Kohl strategic planning process? What elements of the Dover-Kohl draft vision plan do you like most? Is there anything you want to change? Please explain.**

A: Dover Kohl has done a good job with presenting relevant data in infographics. The data is helpful in understanding who lives here, how they live and what they would like the City to look like 20 years from now. They have presented some innovative ideas for Beaches Town Center and great improvements to Penman Rd and the Florida and Atlantic areas. Increased walking and biking paths throughout the City are a must for our lifestyle.

However, I do have some concerns. My biggest concern is the proposed plans for 500 Atlantic. The two ideas presented are not based on anything that the owner/developer has said they are interested in doing. I fear that this could cause confusion, misunderstanding and frustration for residents, now and in the future.

- 4. Crime/Public Safety: What are the most important crime/public safety issues in Neptune Beach and what should be done to address them? Please be specific. Are there proposals for police reform that you would support for NBPD?**

A: We are incredibly fortunate to live in a safe community with low crime rates. Chief Pike and his team do a fantastic job of addressing issues that arise and maintaining a great community presence to deter crime. I do not believe that we need any police reform in Neptune Beach Police Department.

- 5. Paid Parking: What is your opinion of the paid parking program at the Beaches Town Center? How should the paid parking revenues be allocated? What, if anything, would you do to improve the parking in the Beaches Town Center?**

A: I believe it is premature to judge the success of the paid parking program since enforcement has not been in place. Over the coming months, data can be analyzed which will allow an evaluation to take place.

- 6. Budget: How will you address the budgetary shortfalls caused by the COVID crisis? What specific items in the budget would you recommend adjusting? What specific strategies would you suggest to raise additional funds?**

A: It is unknown, as of the last finance meeting, how significantly the budget will be affected by the pandemic. Speculating about hypothetical adjustments and need to raise funds would be irresponsible. Should a situation arise, I would work with the finance department, other council members and the public to build consensus as to where cuts should be made.

- 7. Comprehensive Plan: While you are in office, Neptune Beach will be updating the Comprehensive Plan and land use regulations. What are the most critical elements in each that need to be addressed? Please be specific.**

A: The process of updating the Comp Plan and Land Use regulations will be an exhaustive one, in which all of the Councilmembers will need to participate, along with experts. The most critical element in my mind is to ensure that throughout all of our planning and zoning we effectively protect our city from any future Council who wants to change it from home town to vacation destination.

- 8. Penman Road: What improvements, if any, would you support for Penman Road?**

A: The western part of the city is mostly ignored and consequently run down in many areas. I would like to see improvement to pedestrian and bike paths on Penman, as well as on Florida Blvd and Atlantic from Florida to Penman. I like the ideas laid out in the Vision Plan for the west part of the city, especially, Atlantic and Florida.

- 9. Coastal Resiliency: Going forward, what actions does Neptune Beach need to take to mitigate flooding vulnerability and sea level rise?**

A: Neptune Beach's Resiliency Plan should be developing local government and private sector partnerships to secure funding and regulatory and legislative support for resiliency and adaptation strategies at the state and federal levels.

- 10. Campaign Pledge: Will you make a pledge to carry out a campaign based on issues and facts and renounce the use of name-calling and inuendo? What will you do if such literature (for instance by mass mailings) is distributed?**

A: Yes, I have, and will continue to campaign on issues, without personal attacks. This is a small local race with no PACs involved so no mailings that are not from my campaign directly will be sent out.

- 11. Are there any other issues you would like to address if elected? Please explain.**

A: I plan to see improvement in the city's handling of constituent services and communication. We should be utilizing technology to be responsive and proactive. The residents in the western part of the city are largely younger families with children and busy lives - they don't have time to attend council meetings to ask for sidewalks to be repaired. But they shouldn't have to. ALL of the city infrastructure needs to be maintained as a matter of course, not just when someone complains. We can do better.