

Beaches Watch Questionnaire

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- 1. Qualifications and Motivation:** I have been in public service most of my life starting with the Neptune Volunteer Fire Department at the age of 15. From there I became the youngest police officer ever hired by the city of St. Augustine at the age of 19 years and 5 months old. While employed by St. Augustine I joined the Florida Army National Guard and within 3 years I had been to flight school and became a Warrant Officer. I then worked for the Leon County Sheriff's Department as a Pilot and then the Florida Marine Patrol to fly, but the flight positions were cut and I returned home and came on with the Neptune Beach Police Department. I retired from Neptune Beach approximately 19 months ago and during that time I got to know all the city employees and their jobs. This friendship with the city employees gave me an inside view of the day to day operations of the city, that I am sure are not that different from Atlantic Beach city government. I graduated from Fletcher in 1980 and have a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration. With all my years of service to the community, running for Commissioner seems like the natural progression to continue my service to the community.
- 2. Priorities:** To take care of our city employees so that they can take care of the public. Better trained and better paid employees will stay with the city and not continue to leave. When employees leave, we lose valuable knowledge and must start the training process over again.
- 3. Budget:** Increasing the Millage would be the last resort for me. I would look for federal or state grants to assist with shortfalls and see where non-essential items could be cut.
- 4. Carter Amendment:** I believe the Mayor's term should be four years. The Mayor has only one vote on the commission and if the mayor or any Commissioner is doing such a bad job the public has the option of recalling the elected official.
- 5. In-house Attorney:** At this time, I am not sure which is the best option on this subject but would go with the option that saves the city money. Paying on a case by case basis may be expensive but it would not require that the city provide benefits which is approximately 1/3 of base salary.
- 6. Land Development Regulations:** I am pro property owner's rights but also believe that there are minimums and maximums in place so that an individual's rights do not trample the rights of their neighbors or the environment.
- 7. Parking:** I am not in favor of the paid parking in the downtown area nor am I in favor of advertising parking spaces available in residential areas.
- 8. Parks:** At this time with budgets being lean I believe that we should continue to maintain the parks that we have and only make repairs where needed. Grant funding may be a source for park improvements.

9. Public Safety: As a former law enforcement officer I can tell you that without a strong well supported Police Department the city would be in trouble. I believe that the city should make every effort to retain officers and when possible hire individuals from the local community. There are several types of grants for equipment, personal and vehicles that are available from federal, state, and private organizations.

10. Resilience:

11. Campaign Pledge: As a candidate I will treat people as nice as they will allow me to treat them. I will not go negative and will stick to the issues at hand.