

## Election 2009

### Candidate Response: Fran Adelson & Len Torres

1. The City has instituted a pilot program with speed bumps on California and Nebraska. What is your plan to roll out to the remainder of the West End?

Common sense should prevail. How can one measure the effectiveness of speed bumps by placing them on 2 narrow streets? (California & Nebraska). The wide streets, having 2 way traffic should be looked at first. This should be done in intervals in an effort to measure their effectiveness. The city should also be looking into cost effective measures. Reversing traffic direction on some of the narrow street will eliminate the thru-traffic that occurs by motorists attempting to avoid traffic lights.

2. Are you in favor of or opposed to traffic light cameras in the West End?

I am in favor of traffic light cameras only if they are to be used to curb and catch traffic offences. I would oppose any other use that might violate an individual's privacy. I would also want to look into the cost effectiveness of purchasing the cameras and see if there is a way to partner with the county on this.

3. How would you work with the Historic West End Business Association and WENCA to deal with quality of life issues for our residents?

With responsible representation, all organizations can be effective in the West End. In order to be successful, all organizations need to work together. The board members of the groups should act as mentors to the others. If a few can be successful business owners and considerate neighbors at the same time, then all should be able to do the same. There are current laws in the city of Long Beach that need to be enforced. Quality of life issues are important and a priority to the Democrats and we intend to enforce these laws.

4. Are you in favor of or opposed to the City's acquisition of the vacant lot on Nebraska Street to be used as a municipal parking lot and why?

First, our City Manager is misleading us as to the status of the original grant that would have been used to purchase this property. Second, even if the 2005 grant that is in question is still available, it was not designated for this purpose. For \$300,000 we can do a lot better than 10 parking spaces and avoid lawsuits with our neighbors. A small fraction of that money could be used to offer tax credits to various businesses in the West End that have parking lots which are vacant every night. These tax credits could be used in an effort to utilize these lots from 8PM-8AM for resident sticker parking. This would add at least 130 additional parking spaces at a fraction of the cost.

5. Many issues across Long Beach involve enforcement. What changes if any would you make with respect to the running of the LBPDP?

There should never be a conflict of interest when it comes to law enforcement. City Council members should never be in a position to grant favors to family members especially when it comes to law enforcement. The Democrats will begin restoring the trust and integrity that has been missing from the LBPDP for way too long. The citizens deserve this.

6. What is the biggest line item expense (not department) in the current City of Long Beach operating budget?

The personnel line is the biggest line item expense in the budget. If the city would eliminate those who are on the payroll because they are Friends and Family, millions could be saved without taking away the jobs of the workers who operate our city.

7. Would you be in favor of or opposed to appointing one City Council member to head the City's Beautification Committee and why?

The City Administration needs to be more involved in the community. The former City Manager, was actively involved in the beautification of our city and you can see the results of his efforts everywhere. He lived here and he cared. It was his home.

8. Please summarize the current DEC permit that allows the City to groom non-vegetative portions of the dunes in layman's terms. What is your plan to renovate West End beach entrances and how much would it cost?

The Republican administration has ignored the law and put the entire West End at risk. Any plans to renovate beach entrances must maintain the integrity of the dunes to protect our citizens and their properties. We need to work with the DEC for compliance and to insure the availability of our beaches to handicapped people.

9. Litter and dog waste are still concerns for our residents. What are your recommendations to ameliorate this problem?

Again, this is an enforcement problem. There needs to be additional cleaning and people need to be ticketed for not complying with the existing laws. The current city Manager does not live here and is not affected by this issue.

10. What is your assessment of Phase I of the City's Parking Consultant Study as posted on the City's website?

This is not a well thought out plan. Instead of paying a parking consultant twice, the city should have used it's own Parking/Traffic expert at no cost to the tax payers. The parking consultant came up with the same information that was available for free! There needs to be zero tolerance with our current parking laws. If you're willing to enforce parking meters with tickets, why not just enforce the time restrictions that are on the books with tickets. We should be adding bicycle racks throughout the city to encourage their use. There should also be enforcement of the penalties for illegal rentals. This should be enforced equally throughout the city and all candidates and administration should be held to the same enforcement.