

# Election 2009

## Candidate Response: Mike Fagen

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?

A-Common sense should prevail. The wide streets, having two-way traffic should be looked at first. This should be done in intervals in an effort to measure the effectiveness. In addition, we should be looking at cost effective measures as well. Reversing traffic on some of the narrow streets will eliminate the thru-traffic that occurs by motorists attempting to avoid lights.

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

A- As long as they are used to curb traffic offenses we will be in favor of them. Any extension of their use that violates personal privacy should not be allowed.

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

A-With the right representation, any organization can be effective in the West End. That said, we would ask the responsible members of this group to act as mentors to the others. If a few can be considerate neighbors and successful businesses at the same time, why can't all of them do the same? Quality of life issues are 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?

A- 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 by some miracle the 2005 grant that is in question is indeed available, it was not designated for this purpose. I think that for \$300,000 we can do a lot better than TEN parking spots, and avoid lawsuits with our neighbors in the process. I would use a fraction of that money and offer tax credits to the various businesses in the West End that have parking lots. These Tax Credits would be used in an effort to utilize these lots from 8PM til 8AM for resident sticker parking. This would add 130 parking spaces for overnight parking 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 LBPD?

A-I would end the "Family and Friends" practices that permeates this department. There should never be a conflict of interest when it comes to law enforcement. 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 in the LBPD for way too long.

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

A. Personnel is the single largest expense. While the city needs workers to operate by eliminating those who are on the payroll because they are Friends and Family, millions can be saved.

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

A. The former City Manager was actively involved in beautification in the city. When the Republicans changed the law to allow the City Manager to live outside the city the Republican City Manager was not interested in beautification. The City Administration needs to be more involved in the community and we would push to make certain it is.

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?

A- DEC provides for raking and cleaning, areas that are NON VEGETATIVE. It does not provide for BULLDOZING ANYWHERE! The Republicans have ignored the law and put the entire West End at risk. At the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting with DEC, our City Manager was directed by DEC to repair all damage to the Dunes before any beach work may proceed. Any plans to renovate beach entrances must maintain the integrity of the dunes and the Democrats will include DEC in all planning stages prior to any construction. The Democrats will work together with DEC in restoring the City's credibility and to protect our natural resources

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

A-This again is an enforcement problem. If the City Manager walked our streets he would see the need for additional cleaning and enforcement. Realizing that this is a problem that occurs regularly in specific areas, The Democrats will deploy Code Enforcement officers to these areas to enforce the laws until the offending parties begin to comply with the law.

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

A-This is obviously a poorly thought out plan. Instead of paying a Parking consultant TWICE, the City should have used it's own Parking/Traffic expert at zero expense to the taxpayers. The same information that the consultant came up with was available for free from the city. In the nutshell, it is about enforcement. If you are willing to enforce parking meters, then why not just enforce the time restrictions that are on the books? There is no cost to taxpayers. Enforce these laws, add bike racks, limit the number of block parties that occur on a single day, and enforce the illegal rentals. This last element that refers to illegal rentals should be enforced equally. That means candidates as well as administration members should