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Neighbors Building a Better Altadena asked all the candidates for Altadena Town Council to share responses to three questions.

~ Why you are running for election and what skills and strengths you will bring to the Council?

~ How do you plan to reach out to and involve residents of your census tract in our town's civic life?

~ What is your vision for overall community health and economic development in Altadena?

Here are the responses received as of May 27, 2016.

Census Tract 4601 ~ Candidate Dennis Eodice (via Facebook)

My reasoning for running is the following:

As I have stated, the parkway on Mount Lowe Drive is deteriorating with the water restrictions in place today. We as a neighborhood is very concerned with the prospects that the parkway will loose the grass areas (most of the parkway) to dying and become either dried up weeds and dirt dust areas. In our view, this reduces the ability of the parkway to host its historical activities such as neighborhood families bring their children to play on the park. Also this will create an eyesore for the neighborhood.

My neighbors looked to someone who would take action. I chose to get involved and to see what can be done. I took the below actions

1. Call LABOS and spoke to Edel Vizcarra who is in charge of medians. He informed me of the watering restrictions imposed on medians which the county designates that parkway as. He referred me to Sussy Nesmer who is in charge of parks, as he even stated that the parkway is more a park them median.
2. Sent Sussy an email requesting information and her opinion on what we can do. Have not received a response from her. Resent the email, no response
3. Spoke with Jim Daly, public works. He again stated the imposed water restrictions and also that his organization does not have the funding for any landscape plans for the parkway. In fact, no plans are on the table.

4. Edel Vizcarra verified this also.

So the only choice that I saw available was to run for the town council as a way of presenting my neighborhood concerns over this. Perhaps the town council will be able to create some form of solution to this problem by either influencing the LABOS or another organization. This is my hope.

Recently, I have contacted Congresswoman Judy Chu's office. The reason is that I believe the parkway is a national historical site. As you may know there is a monument on the parkway in which there is a plaque designating the Mount Lowe Railway as a historical site. Of course the reasons the monument and the plaque are placed where they are is for the fact that the parkway is the route of the railway. In my opinion it holds historical value. If this is true, perhaps there can be funding from the federal government to help improve the parkway.

Also, my neighbors would like to see improvement in the community such as a redevelopment of the small downtown area. We would love the ability to frequent cafes located there as opposed to going down the hill and taking our money to other communities. We know that this is a long-term project, but I am sure that plans are on the table and I would like to reflect my neighbors' opinions and ideas regarding those plans.

My skills and strengths are listed above. When I see a problem, I like to at least find out why the problem exist and what possible solutions or actions can be taken to solve the problems.

I hope this answers your questions. Please, if you have more do not hesitate to ask me.

Best.
Dennis Eodice

Census Tract 4601 ~ Candidate John White

I have served for one term on the Altadena Town Council (ATC) and Land Use Committee (LUC), attended every meeting, countless community events, and done the long hours of investigative work to understand every residential and commercial issue that has come before ATC and LUC. I've learned how to be an effective representative for Census Tract 4601 and ALL the residents of Altadena. I seek re-election to continue the committed service that I've demonstrated.

The experience gained and relationships built with key Los Angeles County personnel are invaluable to any councilperson. Larger issues requiring a vision for Altadena's future come before ATC each month. I've demonstrated integrity, a broad understanding of what needs to be done, and how to work with the county to succeed. I've walked the streets of CT4601, talked with residents about their local concerns, and expressed my vision for our community's future. At every event I've

had the opportunity to learn more about the needs and wishes of Altadena residents, and those needs and wishes inform every vote that I cast.

We have a great number of issues confronting all of us in Altadena. Appropriate business expansion, maintaining the look and feel of our community, the safety of our neighborhoods, traffic control on our streets, and vital infrastructure improvements like sidewalks, street crossings, bike lanes and signage are serious concerns. Branding of our unincorporated area is coming soon with a series of monuments and banners; lane diets are proposed for east-west corridors; expanded parking to better serve patrons of Altadena Library is being discussed. Each of these concerns is part of the coming agenda, and each of these concerns has some impact on our community.

Learning this job takes time. Building relationships takes time. Serving the entire community is a relentless obligation not for the feint of heart. But I have a vision for Altadena, and will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the best representation for CT4601, and the best guidance for all residents.

Census Tract 4602 ~ Candidate Okorie Ezieme

No response received.

Census Tract 4603.01 ~ Candidate Judy Matthews

1. ~ *Why you are running for election and what skills and strengths you will bring to the Council?*

I am privileged to have lived in Altadena for over 39 years. My husband and I have been fortunate to have raised our children here and embrace the belief that we all make the difference in our community through action--not just words. I have a love for the people of this community and our beautiful city, and want other families to have the opportunity to enjoy Altadena as I have. I envision children and families wanting to give back to this community in which they have been nurtured by reaching out to the next generation through mentorship and creation of sponsorship opportunities.

When I first sought election to the Altadena Town Council, my goal was to work towards ensuring a safer, more beautiful community. I have learned that this is an ongoing process. In that regard, I am running for re-election to continue the work I started with focus on doing the following:

- Working closely with local agencies to address safer community;
- Ensuring protection of our open spaces;
- Feasibility studies for sufficient pedestrian walkways, blind intersections, and traffic calming measures;

- Addressing homelessness;
- Improved road maintenance; and
- Ensuring that residents are aware of available community resources.

As a member of the Altadena Town Council, I have utilized my background in developing partnerships and collaborations with businesses and agencies in order to work towards creating a safer, more thriving community for the Altadena we all love. Although I am proud of the positive results I have seen in the community through my work, involvement and team collaborative efforts of Damon L. Hobdy, Esq., there is still much to be done. I will continue utilizing my administrative experiences and skills enhanced during my many years of public service and my leadership roles with both local and national organizations to continue to address the needs of the community. I take pride in serving the residents of Altadena, and look forward to continuing the work we have started.

2. ~ How do you plan to reach out to and involve residents of your census tract in our town's civic life?

As public servants, we must stay visible and accessible to our constituents in order to ascertain the needs of the community. As a representative for Census Tract 4603.01, I have worked diligently for the past four years to ensure that residents' public service needs are met. I recognize that establishing opportunities for residents to share their views and needs is vital to the overall well being of the community. In that regard, I take pride in having initiated the annual "Meet and Greet" of Census Tract 4603.01, which has since been adopted by other census tracts representatives. The meeting's agenda is based on the community's responses to the annual questionnaire. Local government agencies and community organizations are invited to work together to address the concerns raised by residents. In addition, residents are encouraged to attend Altadena Town Council Meetings, census tract forums addressing land use matters, MYN/CERT training, local organization meetings, community activities, "Chat and Coffee" with our local law enforcement, and my online Communication Forum to express concerns and receive information as it relates to the community. I'm also excited to represent Altadena Town Council as a member of Assemblymember Chris Holden 41st Assembly District Local Government Advisory Committee and working with Assembly member Holden's office to assist in planning the Special Joint Council Meeting to be held on Thursday, June 16, 2016. This meeting presents a perfect opportunity for residents to get involved and stay engaged in discussions affecting our community. As I continue to work diligently to ensure that the needs of the community are met, I invite residents to offer suggestions or ideas for other ways to keep our community actively engaged.

3. ~ *What is your vision for overall community health and economic development in Altadena?*

Developing a healthy community involves healthy choices for the residents and for the overall positive well being of the community. A comprehensive report by the U.S. Surgeon General has found that people who engage in regular physical activity can substantially improve their health and quality of life. In addition, the report reveals that physical activity relieves symptoms of depression and anxiety, improves mood, and enhances psychological well-being.

As obesity and other health concerns continue to plague Americans, it is important that our communities offer safe opportunities for residents to engage in physical activities. Maintaining well-equipped parks with active programs provide health and economic benefits. In addition, creating and maintaining beautiful, walkable neighborhoods encourage residents to engage in walking and cycling, allowing for the possibility of increased physical activity and social interaction. Importantly, developing youth civic projects that promote healthier lifestyles encourages a sense of belonging and respect in our youngest of residents while allowing them to actively participate in the betterment of our community. The availability of open spaces, recreation areas, community gardens and safer communities are vital to establishing a healthier community.

Working to develop a physically healthy community also leads to strong economic development. Maintaining safe, beautiful neighborhoods creates a sense of pride in residents and invites growth while attracting businesses to the area. Businesses want to be a part of financially viable communities and residents want to be a part of communities where products and services are easily accessible. Retaining existing businesses and attracting new businesses to our community are vital to the economic growth of our city. In order to support local businesses, it is important to foster partnerships and remove barriers deterring the development of new business opportunities. Quality schools, a thriving community, and workforce development are ways to make a community attractive to both businesses and residents.

Census Tract 4603.02 ~ Candidate Gloria Sanyika

-Why you are running for election and what skills and strength you will bring to the Council?

I am running for Town Council because I want to continue to make a difference in my community. A wise man once told me that you are either a part of the problem or a part of the solution...I want to be a part of the *solution* that moves this town forward.

-How do you plan to reach out to and involve residents of your census tract in our town's civic life?

I have gone door to door introducing myself, passing out newsletters, and collecting e-mail addresses from residents of my census tract. I have held two Community Census Tract meetings and I have invited residents to friend me on face book and to participate in Town Council meetings. My Bio information as well as my phone number is on the Altadena Town Council website. I have reached out to you residents of Altadena Census tract 4603.02 and **I will continue to reach out to you**, but reaching works both ways and I need you, to assist me in my efforts by "reaching back" and meeting me half way.

-What is your vision for overall community health and economic development in Altadena?

Most residents of Altadena want to keep that quiet, small town feel. I have received e-mails from residents suggesting a 99 Cent Store where Wal Mart used to be. I, also, received suggestions for a Cargo Container Retail Center and a restaurant where one may purchase affordable whole foods.

All these are good ideas, however, I believe that Altadeanan's should go "Back to the Future" and **revive** the "COTTAGE CRAFT INDUSTRY" as a means of economic development. I believe that we should redefine technology and create a "Tech Know logy" in harmony with nature and market it as a tourist attraction. Sometimes, a step backward is a giant step forward for our environment in reducing our carbon footprint and maintaining a healthy and prosperous community. We are a creative community; let's put our creative skills to work for us!

Census Tract 4610 ~ Candidate Nestor De La Torre

~ Why you are running for election and what skills and strengths you will bring to the Council?

I am running for Altadena Town Council to give a voice to all residents, particularly the youth. It is important to get young people involved because they provide a different prospective not typically seen in government and because they are the next generation of decision makers.

I am a recent graduate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Political Science and a minor in Nonviolence Studies. While attending school, I led and organized a Get-out-the-vote campaign. I have worked on multiple political campaigns throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

Throughout high school, and occasionally since, I have been involved with a local nonprofit to study, advocate for, and pass municipal laws.

~ How do you plan to reach out to and involve residents of your census tract in our town's civic life?

I believe the easiest and most efficient way to reach out and involve all residents is through a robust social media presence. I believe I am equipped to handle to such an endeavor because I have done that on a personal and professional level. I have also helped create and guide a candidate's position on multiple campaigns.

~ What is your vision for overall community health and economic development in Altadena?

As a native of Pasadena, the unique nature of the community and culture of Altadena has grown on me since I first moved here almost five years ago with my wife. My vision is to preserve this blend of small business, natural beauty, and tranquility.

I believe the backbone of our economy is the small businesses. As we have seen, big businesses come and go by following the profits. Our small businesses are imbedded in our community. It is also important to work with the big businesses that do come to our community by ensuring they also work in our interest.

Census Tract 4611 ~ Candidate Patricia Sutherlen

I am running for re-election to continue what I started two years ago. No Council Member, if he or she is honest, starts the term knowing exactly what is expected of them. There is no primer for success and we all learn by doing. But we do learn especially when we listen before jumping in to fix a problem and ask a lot of questions. Certain skills I developed during my professional life in retail management and banking have been a great help i.e. management, teamwork, organization and problem solving.

Three years ago I had no idea that the Altadena Town Council even existed. Then I worked at an election polling site and became interested. I met a lot of neighbors who seemed to care about Altadena and wanted the Council to succeed. After becoming a Council Member myself two years ago, I decided I wanted to make sure that no one else has to ask "What Town Council?" Therefore, communication has become my personal goal – learn what is happening in Altadena and let our residents know about it. Am I always successful? Not always. The important thing is that I keep trying.

I use email communication, Next Door and just plain walking around. When I hear a complaint, I either make a call to the appropriate county department or connect the resident to it. Sometimes an issue needs to be addressed at a Council meeting and the appropriate person is invited to make a presentation. I spend as much

time as possible attending community events to both make myself visible to residents and to learn what is going on around town so that I can pass on the information to other residents.

While overall community health and economic development in Altadena is not the direct purview of the Town Council, I do make an effort to support existing community organizations and businesses. The more I know, the more I can communicate to the residents.

I thank all those who have supported my efforts during the past two years and ask for your continued support in the future.

Census Tract 4612 ~ Candidate Jennifer Lee

No response received.

Census Tract 4613 ~ Candidate Diane Marcussen

No response received.