



Questions for
Naples City Council Candidates

Submitted by: Ian Rudnick

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Date: 12-14-2021

1. About you:

- How old are you?
I am 39 years old.
- How long have you lived in the City of Naples, and where were you living previously?
I have lived in the City of Naples for almost 2 years and I previously lived in North Naples. I have lived in Collier County since 1991 when I was nine years old, only residing elsewhere during my four years at a Florida University.
- What is your educational background and past work experiences?
I have a Bachelor's Degree in criminal justice, nearly 17 years as a Naples Police Officer (holding leadership roles as the Assistant SWAT Commander, Sergeant Detective/Supervisor of Detectives with the Crime Suppression Team, Homeland Security, Narcotics Task Force and Drug Enforcement Administration).
I have also been a Real Estate Sales Associate for 8 years.

2. What attributes, perspectives or skills do you have that would differentiate you from other members of City Council?

I am the only Candidate that has worked to protect this city for nearly my entire post collegiate life. I have missed birthdays and holidays, had to leave my home in the middle of the night to respond to SWAT call outs and critical incidents, all for the safety and security of our citizens. I have driven this city block by block at all hours of the day and night.

3. Describe a time when you led a group to bring about change.

I led the Naples Police Department SWAT Team toward growing into a premiere tactical team that protects the residents and visitors to the City of Naples. I also worked toward getting the Naples Police Department to assign Detectives to the Statewide Narcotics Task Force and Homeland Security Task Force so that our city would have the additional resources (personnel, equipment, and funding) to better serve our community.

4. Was there a recent City Council vote in which you disagreed with the outcome? If so, why did you disagree?

There are several votes that I disagree with, and they have a common theme. When it appeared that City Manager Charles Chapman didn't have the confidence of three on Council there was a vote to accept his resignation rather than working to keep him in one of the most important leadership positions. Shortly after, virtually the same situation occurred with Interim City Manager Dana Souza, resulting in the loss of another well respected leader. I do not believe that losing either of them was in best interest of the city.

5. What three things do you want to accomplish in your first term on City Council?

First and foremost, we must identify an experienced City Manager, in the absence of which it will be extraordinarily difficult to successfully address any of those issues on which all of the candidates are likely to agree.

I will do everything in my power to ensure that the Council meetings are run far more efficiently, that the citizens of Naples really have an opportunity to attend and be heard (not now feasible with meetings running 10+ hours), and that needed decisions are made on a timely basis.

I will work toward retaining key staff members, to include new hires, department directors and the City Manager. This can be done through competitive salary and benefit packages, growth potential and a positive, healthy working environment.

If we do all of that, we will accomplish our goal of keeping Naples a safe and beautiful community.



ADDITIONAL Questions for
Naples City Council Candidates

Submitted by: Ian Rudnick

Date: 12/20/2021

1. At a Special Meeting on Dec. 21, 2020, City Council voted on a draft resolution which mandated the wearing of face masks / facial coverings in public to protect City residents and visitors from the COVID-19 novel coronavirus pandemic. The resolution was adopted with a 4-3 vote (McCabe-no, Christman-yes, Hutchison-no, Blankenship-yes, Perry-yes, Price-yes, Heitmann-no).

How would you have voted on the proposed City mask ordinance then?

I feel as though addressing a vote that has already happened, while I was not sitting on council to review all the data provided and reviewed by local medical professionals, those tasked with enforcing a mandate and input from citizens, would be careless.

Given the current surge in the omicron variant, would you support a City mask ordinance today?

To address what may occur in the future, prior to getting the same broad spectrum of input would also be careless.

For more, see [Naples City Council asks businesses to mask up](#), Naples Daily News, 12/21/20.

2. During Public Comments at the beginning of a Regular Meeting on Jun. 16, 2021, speakers spoke in favor of or against adding an item on a future agenda to consider an Ordinance designating the City of Naples a Sanctuary for the Unborn. According to an [article in the Naples Daily News](#) on Jun. 18, Heitmann, Hutchison and Blankenship said that they do want to do so, while Christman, Perry and Price said they do not. At a Council meeting in March, according to the article, McCabe said, "I don't think that is a local issue we should deal with."

Do you support adding an item on a future agenda to consider an Ordinance designating the City of Naples a Sanctuary for the Unborn?

I don't think a city that is 14 square miles should put an issue on the agenda that is better addressed at a State Level and not by the local municipality.

Do you support or oppose the [proposed Ordinance](#)?

I oppose the ordinance on the grounds that it is not an issue that should be addressed by a municipality, but rather by a larger governing body.

Please email your responses to Sandy Parker, sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com, no later than December 24, 2021.

Thank you!