



2024 GNFRD Candidate Questionnaire
Revised 7/25/24

Candidate Name: Al Duffy
Email: nnfd64@gmail.com
Website: _____
Phone: 239-641-3815
Date: July 27,2024

1. About you:
 - a. How old are you? **62**
 - b. How long have you lived in Collier County, and where were you living previously? **39 years, original from Patchogue, NY**
 - c. What is your educational background and past work experience? **AS Degree in Fire Science Technology from Edison College. Retired Battalion Chief from North Collier Fire Rescue after serving for 30 years, 1989-2019. Firefighter with City of Naples from 1986-1989, Volunteer firefighter with Hagerman Volunteer Fire Department from 1981-1985**
 - d. What qualifies you for this job? **I feel my long career spanning 43 years in the fire service and currently serving on the Greater Naples Fire Rescue Board of Commissioners since December of 2020 makes me a qualified candidate.**
2. Why are you running for this position? **I would like to seek re-election in my position, so I can continue serving the residents of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District with making sure they continue to receive the best service and protection, along with making sure our employees are also taken care of, so they can continue serving the residents in a highly professional manner. I would also like to continue moving the fire district in a positive direction, which I feel I have done during my term as fire commissioner.**
3. Do you support or oppose the proposal to increase the authorized millage rate from 1.5 mills up to 2.0 mills for an 8-year period, with such revenues held in a capital improvement account? Why or why not? **I do support the proposed millage rate increase. This is desperately needed, so that our district can continue to keep pace with the rapid amount of growth our district is experiencing. This increase is also needed to make us be able to maintain our capital infrastructure, which includes rebuilding some of the firehouses, so they are in compliance with today's safety requirements, along with being able to withstand a**

hurricane and also build future firehouses and facilities. When the merger of East Naples and Golden Gate Fire Districts happened in November 2014, there appeared to be a severe lack of planning to move the newly merged district forward and to keep up with the growth. Many projects had been overlooked, due to the inadequate amount of revenue being collected by the district. These projects are now being addressed by both department staff and the Board of Fire Commissioners. If this millage increase is successful, we will then be able to move forward in completing these projects, within a timely manner.

4. Do you support further consolidation of Collier County's fire districts? If so, why, when, and how? If not, why not? **With only three remaining independent fire districts left in Collier County, I do feel that further consolidation of the districts may be on the horizon. I strongly feel before this happens that the three districts hire a consulting firm to look at the feasibility of this happening, what the revenue will need to be to sustain a fire district of its size, along with the services, personnel, stations, resources, and equipment needed. A consolidated fire district of this size will most likely not be able to function at the 1-1.5 mills the districts are currently operating at. I also feel the district should be independent of the County, with its own board of fire commissioners and revenue source.**
5. What is the most important thing voters should know about you and/or the issues at stake in this election before making their decision about who to vote for? **The voters of the Greater Naples Fire District will continue getting a dependable person with a strong background in public safety, along with making a commitment that they will continue to receive the best service within the district and to move the district forward in a positive direction, so that we may keep up with the growth,**

Please email your responses to Sandy Parker, sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com , no later than August 15. Thank you.