

Minutes November 1st 2017 Citizen's Forum at Mrs. Mitchell's
Approximately 30 residents attended the forum on Wednesday at 6:00PM

Guest City Councilor-at-Large Diosdado Lopez, Ordinance Committee member attended.

Diosdado has filed an order for the Adopt an Island program. He gave an overview of his order with the goal of having well maintained islands that also discourage people from hanging around and panhandling. Members of the audience made a wide range of suggestions with a focus on public safety as well as assistance to those who are homeless.

1) Update on speed humps-new application

It was recently clarified that a speed hump application does not have a required fee that had been noted on the application in the past. New forms were distributed to those who wish to pursue this option.

2) Election Update: GTI donations from executives of \$11,800 were given to 5 City Councilors and one candidate.

The list of those who received and did not receive donations from GTI was read from a recent newspaper article. My opinion is that no Councilor or candidate should be accepting donations from a company when there is a zoning matter being debated in Ordinance Committee that will be coming before the City Council shortly. It is a conflict of interest and a "pay to play" situation. One may say they are not influenced by the money, but it certainly leads to questions and concerns about whose interests are being represented. As the Vice-Chairperson of the Ordinance Committee it is of particular concern that Rebecca Lisi has accepted this large donation, especially in light of her changing positions on the issue.

Those receiving donations include Rebecca Lisi who received \$4,500.00, Gladys Lebron Martinez Ward 1. who received \$2,500 and Candidate for Ward 6 Juan Anderson-Burgos Three others received smaller amounts, Sullivan, 1600, Nelson Ward 2, 500 and Valentin Ward 4. 200.

Those At-Large Councilors who did not receive donations from GTI executives include in alphabetical order: Dan Bresnahan, Howard Greany, James Leahy, Diosdado Lopez, Joe McGiverin, Peter Tallman.

3) Pending issues with DPW

It was noted that the stop sign and stop line need to be completed at Richard Eger and Whitney Road and that the lines need to be painted on the road indicating that it is a two way street where it meets Lower Westfield Road. An order has been filed to repair the pot holes at the bottom of Whitney Ave.

- 4) Old issues:** No water shut off agreement is in place yet for failure to pay sewer bills. An order has been filed to let the public know when and where a fire engine is browned out by using the city call system.

Thanks for your interest, ideas and participation.

Submitted by,

Linda Vacon,

Your Ward 5 City Councilor