

Five of 19 Running So Far for Sea Isle Seats

By JOE HART

SEA ISLE CITY — As a fortuneteller warned Julius Caesar in Shakespeare's famous play, "Beware the Ides of March."

The same can be said to those wanting their names to appear on the ballot for mayor and city council in this city's new government, as the deadline, March 15, is fast approaching.

According to a list kept at the city clerk's office, 19 people have picked up petitions to run for one of the five new council seats, and two for mayor in the May 8 election.

Mayor Leonard Desiderio and local Realtor Don Laricks are the two who've thrown their hats in for mayor, but neither has formally filed an application.

Only five interested in council seats have turned in paperwork to make their candidacy official:

- Angelo Camano, business owner.
- Robert Hunter, 2006 freeholder candidate.
- Edward Sgallo, planning board member.
- Joseph LaRosa, business owner.
- Herbert Ruhl, construction manager.

At least two potential council members, retired technology salesman Carl

Lingesso and Aflac sales coordinator Maryann Meyers, have decided to withdraw from the race, dropping the field to 17.

"I've decided not to run at this time due to business commitments and time constraints," Meyers said.

Lingesso said he decided to drop out for a number of reasons, including the size of the group running, and because he's only been a full-time resident in the city for two years.

"Being fairly new to Sea Isle, I've decided to put my support behind good people with a better chance to be elected than me," he said. "I didn't want to pull any votes from deserving candidates."

Lingesso said the field is still too large and hopes more candidates will follow his and Meyer's lead and take their names from the list.

"I remain optimistic others will come to the same conclusion I did," he said.

As a lifelong salesman, Lingesso said he used to ask colleagues if he and the other salesmen were all "sounding alike," and he doesn't want that to happen in this race.

"With so many choices, some of the best candidates are sure to be lost in the

mix," he said.

Lingesso remains active in We the People, a group that grew out of the original petition committee that brought about the new form of government.

"Our group has interviewed around a dozen of

the candidates," he explained. "We are looking for independent thinkers who will be agents for the people of Sea Isle and not afraid of change."

Contact Hart at (609) 886-8600 Ext 35 or at: jhart@cmcherald.com