

**SEA ISLE CITY**  
**GOVERNMENT REFERENDUM**

**MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT AREAS**

*Comparing Sea Isle City with other shore communities, it is easy to see the need for municipal improvements in five areas. The following issues are not a complete inventory of all City issues, so as you review them, think about ways in which better City Government might have benefited you.*

**P***lanning* *Do we have a clear path in front of us for dealing with the town's evolving issues? Why have we not executed on past plans? Are we adequately investing in our town, the way we should? Examples:*

- 1) How many Master Plan exercises have we performed over the last few years, with little or no effect? How much has this cost us for the studies? How many opportunities have been missed by not controlling the future of the town?
- 2) A recent court case implied that we are planning by variance, effectively nullifying previous Master Plans. We need a more consistent adherence to and application of building ordinances and codes.
- 3) Why aren't we motivating businesses to stay in town?

**I***mage* *Is Sea Isle City a family-oriented town, a noise-free and attractive place to visit and live? Tourism is the life-blood of our city's economy, are we losing our appeal as major seashore resort? Examples:*

- 1) Have you seen the recent news and magazine articles portraying life in this town? The "Whores at the Shore" radio show and Philadelphia Magazine's "Coupling" article is not how we should be identified.
- 2) Where are all the trees? We have wasted years of new development in not demanding that trees be planted on every property. Why hasn't City Planning required trees for new construction as required by ordinance? Why are the City Environmental Commission's proposals being ignored?
- 3) Why has the COSPAR lot, situated at such a valuable spot by the Promenade, sat for years as little more than an abandoned lot? What has happened to the "Excursion Park" project proposed in December 2003?
- 4) Why do burned-out buildings have to remain standing for over a year, when everyone agreed last winter that they would be an eyesore this summer? Why has the City not taken action since the Court's decision?
- 5) Why does our City's investment in beach restoration and preservation lag woefully behind every other island community in Cape May County?
- 6) If there is so much concern for being family oriented, why weren't the improvements to Play-By-The-Bay and Dealy Field completed before this summer's season?
- 7) Since litigation concerning the construction of the Life Guard Headquarters was settled almost three years ago, why hasn't it been built?
- 8) Why was it necessary to seek donations and hold a fundraiser to purchase handicap beach chairs? Why was this not planned and funded in the 2006/2007 budget?
- 9) What are the plans for restoring/enhancing our image as a family oriented and vibrant seashore community?

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***E*****fficiency** *Are we providing quality governmental services at reasonable costs? Are municipal projects effectively prioritized and built at reasonable costs? Examples:*

- 1) Are City employee salaries and benefits in this town consistent with today's real-world marketplace? As an employee, wouldn't you like to receive a longevity bonus every year and have cost free health insurance benefits with only a \$0.50 co-pay on your prescriptions?
- 2) Why has the City spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to buyout employee's contracts?
- 3) Why do 40% of the City's employees have supervisory titles, which is far too many?
- 4) Why hasn't the City performed and published cost effective studies of alternative approaches to providing city services, such as trash collection and professional services, as has been done in other communities?
- 5) Does it really need to cost more than \$300 a square foot to build our Beach Patrol Headquarters?
- 6) How long were the broken water meters and free water bill rides going on before action was finally taken? What has this cost us in lost revenue?

***C*****ommunication** *Does government provide municipal information in a timely and open manner? Does it solicit and respond to public input before taking action or simply go through the motions? Examples:*

- 1) Have you gone to a Commissioner's Meeting and been surprised about the agenda? Other towns in our area publish their agendas ahead of time on websites for the public to see.
- 2) Why are not Minutes for the Commissioner's Meetings posted on the City website shortly after the meetings? The issue should not be if these are available publicly, but when and how easily they are available. Our government needs to be committed to providing information to us, not just complying with required dissemination of it.
- 3) When have you ever seen actual text for Resolutions provided at the Commissioner's meetings, so that you could be informed about what is being discussed and/or passed?
- 4) Why was there only a single Commissioner's Meeting per month from March to August 2006?

***E*****nforcement** *Are we enforcing our building codes, noise and other regulations in a consistent and effective manner? Are codes in compliance with County, State and Federal requirements? Examples:*

- 1) Why do Town Watch /Town Pride have to complain about lack of Noise Violations summons? Why is the government not responding to this issue themselves? Who decided to change course in the enforcement of noise call responses, which continued at almost 400 during this summer?
- 2) How did the Building Code Enforcement official get to interpret our longstanding tree ordinance, resulting in no enforcement for planting trees? Our City Solicitor has judged the current ordinance to be clear. Speaking of which, how long does it take to revise an ordinance? It has been over ten months!
- 3) Rental Permits were supposed to have an inspection program to justify the fee. How many homes are being inspected by the City on a regular basis? Are self-inspections a reasonable and safe way to handle this? What is the town's potential liability from this lack of enforcement?
- 4) Did we really need to waste taxpayer money fighting about a gazebo all these years?