

An Open Letter To The Mighty Voters Of Super Ward 7 in Norfolk, Virginia

My name is Harry David Candela. I am the son of Captain Harry Joseph Candela USN retired and Janet Atkinson registered nurse retired. I am married to a wonderful lady. I am a Christian with a meaningful, reasonable, and heart felt commitment. My career has been one of public safety service to others. Visit my website www.hdcandela.webs.com to see it in more depth. Though disabled, I graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College with a BS in biology, chemistry, and government as well as, Regent University with a Masters in Public Policy. My published thesis was a comprehensive study on the use of Sun Tzu's "Art of War" in USMC Officer Education during the time I trained under General Gray.

All of our physical lives are limited in duration, and what matters most is what we do. For those reasons I can not be bought, I will not lie to you. I am independent, and as a matter of principle I will do what exactly what I declare I will do.

I believe myself obligated to run for City Council because of the corruption and abuse that I witnessed while living in Norfolk and working for the City. It is my strategic plan to expose all of it and use all of it to push for fundamental, institutional and structural reforms that will act as checks and balances to protect your rights while getting the City's actual progress back on track. As City Council meetings are televised and on youtube.com, I will also deliver entertainment value and hope through straight forward honest candor, argumentative if need be.

If anyone tells you that you should vote for them because they are the incumbent and have the support of other office holders despite being in the midst of multiple scandals that are representative of a very large corrupt political machine, then clearly I recommend that you vote against them. If a candidate is taking hefty amounts of money from large impersonal out of state organizations, then I would question if they truly represent you. I pledge to be your check and balance on those who have sold out and mismanaged this City. If elected, I know my mandate and will not be stopped from protecting and serving you.

If I have to, I am willing to do it through extra-Council means, such as going straight to the public with hidden information, open town hall meetings, working with civic leagues, getting help from professional associations, making TV reports, doing radio interviews, guiding newspapers articles, posting internet documentaries, calling in other higher authorities,

organizing rallies, fighting for investigations, protecting whistle blowers, offering others the option to resign or retire, or whatever it takes.

Remember me when you vote, and I will be your City Council representative.

Most Sincerely,

Harry David Candela

This letter was written, printed, distributed, and approved by Harry David Candela

City Council Candidate for Super Ward 7 in Norfolk, Virginia

Actions To Be Taken For Voters Of Super Ward 7 in Norfolk, Virginia

1. Move New Business and Public Commentary to City Council back into the duration and body of City Council Meetings, mandating that they will be part of the televised and historically documented City Council Meetings.

2. Institute the recording, keeping, printing, publication, and permanent internet posting of comprehensive, detailed, and specific meeting minutes from every City Council Meeting, available in printed form without charge on request by and to the public.

3. Prohibit closed and secret City Council Meetings. In the event that it is found that in the past City Council Members or the City Manager engaged in hiding unpopular, unethical, or illegal actions from the voters, accounts of those activities shall be publicized as part of a City Council Meeting in the process of making a Public Apology and also handed over to the most proper authorities for investigation and prosecution.

4. Move the Freedom of Information Act Officer from under the City Public Information Officer and into an Independent Freedom of Information Act Department. Hire 3 additional Freedom of Information Act Officers. Establish that resistance or delay in remittance of documents by any City employee to Freedom of Information Act Department Officers shall constitute an ethics violation mandating investigation, review and possible dismissal. Provide documents and information requested by the public under the Freedom of Information Act free of charge in electronic form, \$3 on CD-DVD, or at 10 cents a page in paper form.

5. Create a Department of Ethics for the City of Norfolk Government staffed by 5 Specialists with investigative authority and punitive Council powers above and over the Department of Human Resources. Additionally commission the Department of Ethics to monitor and guarantee that the Department of Human Resources no longer restricts or denies City employees ERC Representation under the guise of Employee-Employer Meetings. Investigate, adjudicate, and dismiss any City Administrator who engaged in that activity or in deception through manipulation of official forms, and in any use of administrative procedures to suppress the grievance process, cover up wrong doing, and besmirch employees.

6. Post the complete City Budget online, itemized and in summery, as many other cities have done for the people to review. Doing so would be the first step toward reducing and eliminating the yearly 11 to 26 million dollar over budget expenditures. The second step could be the reduction of each Department's budget by 1 percent each year over a ten year period. The third step could be the hiring of new employees only in accord with the numbers of those retiring early or as mandated.

7. Provide better public safety by establishing three additional, well staffed police substations in the center of the three highest violent crime areas of the City. Require that all new police officers are recruited from within or near the areas they patrol. Examine and determine how better to combine the traditional, tested and trusted method of training officers with the newer method of academy in order to convey insight, wisdom, adherence to oaths, and respect for rights.

8. Due to loss of life, excessive injuries, liability, high employment turnover, improper actions, misconduct, mismanagement, and public complaints concerning the Department of Parks and Open Spaces' Aquatics Division, and in preparation for expansion of the Norfolk Tide's transportation line in concert with the dredged sand expansion of Norfolk beaches, it is necessary to provide professional standards of care by administrating, staffing, and running Norfolk beaches and waterfronts under Public Safety through EMS and Fire Fighting Station 13. This would be in a manner consistent with industry standards as illustrated by Sand Bridge beach in Virginia Beach, VA, Ocean City, MD, Pompano Beach, FL, Hollywood Beach, FL, Miami Beach, FL, Daytona Beach, FL, Galveston Beach, TX, Los Angelis, CA, and San Diego, CA. How much is a life worth? In order to improve the level of service at, care rendered by, and cost-benefit from City pools and swimming programs, the Division Head of Aquatics should be re-focused on those built facilities in order to eliminate deficiencies that developed after this position was created and the retirement of the senior council of pool managers.

9. Make the Norfolk Tide train line profitable, help the working people of Norfolk, increase property values, improve the quality of air, and use less fuel by extending the service to Old Dominion University, Norfolk Navy Station, Ocean View Beach, and the Norfolk International Airport within the next four years.

10. Reform the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority while protecting the rights of those who have been most disadvantaged in the City, repaying a debt to those most held back by the City, creating stake holders, and building community improvement. The legacy of past Jim Crow discrimination and plantation slavery still exists today in Norfolk, and that is the reason the current residents of large scale public housing developments should be granted the deeds of the dwelling they are living in, forming condominiums of each building with a 10 year property tax waiver attached to the deeds. Doing this, the right thing, would actually be more cost effective than the City continuing to lord ownership and control over the residence thereof. Task the NRHA to reform itself into an organization focused on integrated housing ownership, developing mixed income communities. Representatives of the NRHA should not be spending time telling residents that they can not exercise one right or another, family members are not allowed to visit, how their living room should be arranged; mature adults cannot have a cook out barbeque, or worse, how they must vote in elections.

11. Foster greater public awareness and understanding as well as complete exposure and prosecution of multiple cover-ups of unethical and criminal activities undertaken by the City of Norfolk employees, officers, officials, and their friends over a number of years in order to see justice completed and give numbers of victims a sense of closure. Please refer to the following list. It is only a start. As well, should you know of any other wrong-doing that needs to be remedied please contact me through email so I can help you. There is no justice without us.

A. Who could forget the Granby Tower failure? However, the multiple Bank of the Commonwealth scandals, the Mid-Town Office Tower scandal (pushed by Mayor Fraim), quick foreclosures on properties held by working people while the well-connected went long terms without paying mortgages only further show what happens in cigar smoke-filled back rooms occupied by the Old Boy Network. It is members of that Norfolk political machine who tried to help to cover up long-term corruption through questionable local investigations and lack of local prosecution all designed to slow State and Federal level action, reflected by the indictment of Anthony Burfoot. As well, has councilmen Paul Riddick paid his overdue taxes yet?

B. The coordinated use of inspections and denial of permits forced the Union Mission to give up its building, which housed the poor and homeless, so as to directly profit well-connected private developers and businesses in “public-private partnership” socialism. It would be a greater shame if the Union Mission had not fought so hard. Why should a charity have to fight so hard?

C. The abuse of eminent domain in an attempt to steal Central Radio and Norva Plastics from their owners - an action that would have destroyed over 100 jobs - made national news, was decided by the SCOTUS in favor of the medium sized private businesses, and required the Commonwealth to change its charter so as to restrict despotic City councils. During the fight, the City of Norfolk - under Mayor Fraim and City Manager Jones - went as far as to tread on First Amendment Rights by restricting the owner of Central Radio from political protest and speech through a banner on his own building. The use of inspectors to target less connected businesses and cause devastating loss through multiple repeat fines is nothing new in the City of Norfolk, and must no longer be done to advantage “the competition.”

D. The attempted seizure of numerous historic and beautiful Victorian homes in Riverview, owned by blue collar workers and retirees, through eminent domain for the purpose of enriching well-connected land developers and contractors who wanted to build multilevel high density housing there. No public servant or phony expert has a monopoly on insight as to what would be best done with your property after unfairly taking it from you. You have a right to be left alone and live in peace without threat.

E. The exorbitant tolls placed on the Mid-Town and Downtown Tunnels that could only be summed up as punitive against the working people of Norfolk and Portsmouth are a serious issue. Though major construction of the tunnel is completed, those tolls are still in force - collected by a private contractor and used by the City of Norfolk. As a person who fought beside Wally Erb for the removal of tolls on Route 44 (now known as Route 264), and having seen lotto

money used for more than simply education, I can say that the City of Norfolk will need to be compelled to control its' tax appetite and end the tolls after the projects are complete. Moreover, this is not a public relations issue at heart, and the public is insulted by the advertisements promoting the tolls and its method of collection...ads all paid for by tax dollars.

F. The aristocratic arrogance of City Council and various Department Directors in the City of Norfolk by unethically using large amounts of City funds to pay for expensive and unnecessary architectural variations in buildings, post-modern statues, and crude paintings by well-connected but questionably talented artists is simply wasteful of resources that should be used to help the people of Norfolk in other more fundamental ways. Did you know that the windows in Southside Aquatics Center were special ordered and custom made? They are easily broken, not made of particularly safe glass. Notice the statues downtown, at Broadcreek, at North Side Park, in front of the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center, on Granby, and elsewhere. They are excessive and out of touch with how the hard average people are struggling to survive in this City. As your representative, if I must shame others in order to get them to behave, I will. Perhaps, that money would be better spent giving it back to you in lower taxes or on firefighting salaries, police salaries, blankets for the homeless, emergency storm shelter supplies, generators, water filter trucks, playground equipment repairs and education. Norfolk's problems are not solved by feel-good but empty, trendy street art. Do you want to spur the economy? Create an open-air shopping district that waives the requirement of a vendor's license and allows for setting up simple folding tables. Create a monthly supersize open-air market in the parking lots beside Harbor Park or Scope, wherein regular, average people can sell things after renting a table for only \$10. Most of all, do not harass them. Small enterprises grow and create the most wealth in the process. People will then be able to live better lives and purchase art of their choosing.

In closing, please ask yourself, what type of city do you want Norfolk to grow into and who will protect your rights as a matter of principle? I would like to be that City Council representative for you, a check and balance against the corrupt.

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