

CAN Special Election Questionnaire Answers

- 1) It was my privilege to have a discussion with Mr. McFadden concerning this issue. I find it reprehensible that the city would not support the H.P.C. and provide full enforcement measures to back their decisions. The H.P.C., including these two senior members, has spent years evolving and standardizing guidelines that would be fair and equitable for all. Strict compliance of these rules must be the goal. Every resource at the city's disposal must be utilized to set a firm and decisive standard. NO EXCEPTIONS. Furthermore I believe an effort should be made to approach these two dedicated members and invite them to return, knowing that renewed support measures will be firmly in place.
- 2) I have lived in Ward 5 for 25 years and plan to remain. Elected officials take an oath to uphold the city charter and it's provisions- I intend to live up to that oath.
- 3) The committee was formed for the purpose of advancing recommendations to solidify and protect our shoreline, therefore their proposal should have the support of the city. Discussion should begin to look at fund availability and how to proceed in the most efficient manner.
- 4) I do not agree with the current proposal because it tends to put the investor's interest ahead of our city's interest. I believe a multi-purpose use is the most beneficial to Cambridge with a commercial unit(s) on the ground floor. We have waited long enough to have this eyesore restored- let's do it right.
- 5) Absolutely. If the city code details that after 90 days it must be converted back to single family use then let us convert it. No inconstancy, no variance, in fact if a property is under a watch for vacancy we should avail ourselves of every method to determine if it is indeed vacant. For instance, requesting MUC to check about water consumption.
- 6) This seems to be an ongoing saga that the city needs to take a lead on. With a capable planning and zoning department in place they should communicate to the developer the needs of the city and neighborhood in the development process. The process should not put the developer first- but first and foremost the priorities and needs of the city should be met and the interest of the neighborhood given first priority.
- 7) The municipal marina has been, and continues to be, a true asset for our city. Why it has not been maintained is a question that should be answered by the sitting city officials and the prior administration. During my tenure as mayor (2000-2008) several renovation/upgrades were achieved under the direction of city engineer George Hyde- a very capable and dedicated individual. Why his insight/knowledge were not utilized to keep this asset viable is indeed a good question. His opinion should be sought and his leadership will prove to be the guiding resource during the extensive renovation. It was a proud jewel for Cambridge once and can be again.
- 8) When I was mayor, the city had up to 53 uniformed patrolmen, that number now is in the low 30's. How do you rationalize a 40% decrease when violent crimes are escalating? You can't! Priority should be given to our officers and the risks they undertake. Just as we did when I was mayor, we need to revamp the salary schedule to become a viable alternative for law enforcement personnel. Show our officers the support and respect they deserve and begin a multi-pronged effort that will serve to let them know just how valuable and respected we hold them. New signage (i.e. Stop sign on Locust St.) and intense enforcement should help to stem the recent increase in dangerous traffic violations downtown and elsewhere in the city.

- 9) I am not in favor of the relocation at this time. The “Y” has received many accolades over the years for it's current location. The viability of them moving to Cambridge Harbor should be in the hands of the Waterfront Development Committee as they consider a comprehensive approach to the development on site. Before I address where the “Y” should be located I would like to communicate with their board and understand the constraints they are under. Neighborhood input should be sought to ascertain the most efficient use for the present location.
- 10) Climate change is indeed causing damage (i.e. flooding issue on Water St.) in our city. I believe we should seek out resources that have proved successful in other cities. Utilize proven concepts to address these effects.
- 11) There are many issues to address and I think the paramount consideration is to approach these concerns with a pro-active style of management. The previous 10 issues and many others, would have been addressed already if elected officials had vision, been pro-active and communicated with the community about these needs. Lack of maintenance, support for city boards, escalation of violent crimes and other concerns should not be allowed to fester. Pro-active governing should be the standard not a reactive approach that costs all of us

C.L.“Rip” Rippons born and raised on Hoopers Island. Married 49 yrs to Laurie.

Veteran U.S.A.F, Professional Designation; Certified Financial Planner, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Mayor; City of Cambridge (2000-2008).

As we can see our beloved city faces many issues as we move forward. Dozens of citizens have asked me to run at this critical time as Cambridge faces a crossroads. I believe my background, experience and pro-active management stance fits the current needs of our city.

On June 6th cast your vote for C.L. Rippons.