

## **Rex Hardin for Pompano Beach Mayor**

136 SW 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Pompano Beach, FL 33060, 954-785-7716

Responses for Pompano! Magazine Questionnaire

**1. As a mayoral candidate, what do you see as the future of the two CRAs?  
Any involvement of RMA? A new firm to help oversee the projects?  
Internal city management?**

Our CRAs are a critical part of the redevelopment process in our City. They have allowed us to transform our City and will continue to provide benefits that will outlast me as Mayor. I am disappointed that the City Commission allowed the County Commission to dictate our Northwest CRA. I am the only one who voted against the County's recommendation. I did so because a loss of more than \$100 million shortchanges the Northwest neighborhood which is in dire need of smart development. Those additional dollars would have directly benefited our Northwest community and would have impacted Pompano as a whole.

Moving forward, I would hope that there will be some involvement from RMA in the CRA. RMA stands for Redevelopment Management Associates, CRAs can be difficult to manage - that's a lot of money we're talking about - we need experts in redevelopment to council our City. We were fortunate to hire them in 2008 and their execution of the City's vision alongside resident and City Commission feedback has led to the many accolades that Pompano Beach has gotten from notable organizations like Time Magazine, CNBC, Money Magazine, and other authoritative voices.

The recent changes made in our CRA management structure will require heavier involvement from internal City management but to not take advantage of experts like RMA would do Pompano Beach a great disservice.

**2. As you seek to replace Lamar Fisher, how would you assess his tenure?**

I have served with Mayor Fisher since 2007 and I think he has done an excellent job as our Mayor. The City has been fortunate to have him serve as long as he has. Without his hard work and ability to lead the City Commission, we would not have the many improvements you now see in our City. I value his ability to gain consensus respectfully and believe that level of stability has paid tremendous dividends to the community.

**3. Why do you think you would be a better choice for mayor than your competitors?**

To start, my background on the City Commission. I have more than 12 years experience as a City Commissioner in District 3 and I have demonstrated the ability to get things

done with constituent input; that's very important to me. None of my opponents have passed a single, major piece of legislation in Pompano Beach, I have. I have led the charge on beautification projects, protected our single-family neighborhoods and have gotten major development projects approved. I have a proven record - voters can go back and see the things I've accomplished in this city, years before my opponents thought of running for Mayor. Lastly, I am fair and think with the interest of ALL Pompano Beach residents in mind.

Now, if you look at my background outside of the City, you'll find that I have led numerous organizations and have accomplished goals. I am Past President of the Rotary Club of Pompano Beach; Past President of the Sample McDougald House Preservation Society which moved the historic home from N. Dixie Highway to its current home on N.E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street; I'm a Former Board Member of the Broward 100 Club to aid families of fallen first responders.

I have experience leading organizations, I do more than stand on the sidelines and make suggestions, I take action; that's an important trait to have in a Mayor.

**4. If you had to isolate the one single issue that the city needs to focus on during the upcoming term, what would that be?**

Economic development in our Northwest area, without question. The turnaround in our beach area has put Pompano Beach on the international tourism map which is great, but for our City to truly achieve success, and I know it will, we need to make sure that all areas of our City see progress. Without true progress in all of Pompano, we will never be united, and if we are not united, we will not be equipped to deal with serious challenges like sea level rise.

**5. This campaign seems to have taken on a more aggressive tone than typical Pompano Beach elections. Do you have any thoughts on the tenor of the campaign?**

From the very first time I ran for office, I focused on the issues that affect the people in our City. I have always tried to stay focused on moving my community forward and I have been rewarded with successful elections in return. Fortunately, I have maintained that attitude. As tensions continue to rise, you'll see that I have an interest in moving forward and getting back to the issues. When we spend our time on disagreements, we lose focus. We lose valuable time that we could be using to interact with voters.

I'll continue to respond with facts and encourage voters to reach out to me if they have any questions. I'll continue to ask my supporters to behave appropriately. We all have a responsibility to maintain a civil environment. And frankly, I think it's unfortunate when local elections deteriorate to this level - we are neighbors and we will continue to see each other after November 6th.

**6. "Citizens for a Better Pompano Beach" has created some controversy during the campaign cycle. Your thoughts?**

I am reminded of the movie "The American President," with Michael Douglas, where he addresses the issue of the ACLU and asks who could possibly be against an organization that simply wants to protect the rights of American citizens.

While it's not my job to defend the Citizens of Pompano Beach, they were formed to help support the Pompano Beach G.O. Bonds which will deliver millions of dollars in economic development to our City. Ultimately, we will see tremendous job growth in our City and improvements to public safety.

How could anyone be against that? Citizens of Pompano Beach is a bunch of residents and business owners who want to see our City continue moving in a positive direction like we have been doing for the past several years.

Not a bad thing.

**7. It is easy to find people offering criticism of certain candidates. We're also interested in hearing the positives. Is there one prominent supporter that you would like to direct us toward for possible follow-up? Please provide email and phone contact info.**

Steve Hudson, President, Pompano Beach Professional Firefighters Local 1549

Jeff Marano, President, Broward County Police Benevolent Association

Vice Mayor Charlotte Burrie - 954-242-7831

City Commissioner Barry Moss - 954-973-3705

Former Vice Mayor George Brummer - 954-975-0664

Former City Commissioner Woody Poitier - 954-943-7050

State Senator Perry Thurston - 954-224-9575

Former City Commissioner Barry Dockswell - 954-849-5224

Harbor Village Civic Assn. President Paul Webb

Cypress Civic Assn. President Gwen Leys

Collier City Civic Assn. President Phyllis Smith

NWCRA Advisory Board Chair Whitney Rawls

ECRA Chair Jack Rogerson

Former Mayor John Rayson