

NSV Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver

MEDIA RELEASE: NSV announces recommended candidates from “rival” slates

(Vancouver, November 4, 2011) Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver is pleased to announce our recommendations for an additional six City Council candidates to fill out the Council slate.

We are asking our supporters to consider voting for these candidates in addition to the five who are running under the NSV banner: Randy Helten (Mayor); Nicole Benson, Marie Kerchum, Terry Martin and Elizabeth Murphy (Council). <http://nsvancouver.ca/nsv-candidates/>

The additional candidates we recommend are (alphabetical order, see p. 2 for bios and web links):

- R J Aquino (COPE)
- Adriane Carr (Green)
- Sandy Garossino (independent)
- Tim Louis (COPE)
- Bill McCreery (NPA)
- Ellen Woodsworth (COPE)

NSV makes these recommendations with no strings attached. To our knowledge this is the first time that a Vancouver electoral organization has supported candidates running on a variety of competing slates without requiring a reciprocal agreement.

We do this enthusiastically because we do not view these candidates as rivals. Their records on council and in public life are exemplary, their platforms largely consistent with the principles and policies supported by NSV (<http://nsvancouver.ca/about-us/principles/>). They are strong advocates for *real* democracy, which should be free of undue influence from the powerful development lobby, whose main objective—maximizing profit—is in a fundamental conflict of interest with housing affordability and ending homelessness. They recognize that growth must come in ways that are community supported and that respect neighbourhood assets, character and scale.

“On behalf of the NSV Network, I look forward to working with these outstanding people on Council,” said Randy Helten. “I know we have much in common, but there is diversity as well. Each of us has a different set of skills and life experiences, yet each is motivated by a genuine desire to fix problems and improve Vancouver for all of our residents in every neighbourhood.”

A recorded video statement by NSV mayoral candidate Randy Helten will be available on the NSV website (www.nsvancouver.ca).

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APPENDIX FOR NSV MEDIA RELEASE:

Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver (NSV) recommends candidates from “rival” slates

[Vancouver, November 4, 2011]

Bios of other City Council candidates recommended by NSV (Alphabetical order)

R J Aquino (COPE) builds cultural bridges between ethnic communities. He has a strong business background. “We need a city that is affordable at every level. From new immigrants who want to bring their ideas and skills to our city, to our seniors who have spent their lives contributing to the city we all enjoy today.

<http://cope.bc.ca/election2011/teamcope/aquino/>

Adriane Carr (Green) Vancouver born and educated, Carr has a Masters degree in urban geography. She has taught at Langara, helped build the Western Canada Wilderness Committee and co-founded and led the BC Green Party. “There is enough capacity in current zoning bylaws to accommodate projected growth over the next few decades without the need for high rises where they aren’t zoned and aren’t wanted by local residents.”

<http://bettervancouver.ca/adrianesplatform.html>

Sandy Garossino’s varied life experience includes Crown prosecutor with special emphasis on youth and gangs, and management of three Metro cab companies providing employment for 250 people. She has sat on numerous boards including the SFU India Advisory Council, UBC Institute for Asian Research and Vancouver International Writers Festival. In 2011 she co-founded the Vancouver Not Vegas Coalition which successfully opposed Casino expansion at BC Place.

<http://votesandy.ca/>

Tim Louis (COPE), a practicing lawyer since 1984 and City Councillor from 1999-2005, is the co-founder of HandyDart and the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities. The former chair of the City Finance Committee is a firm believer in fiscal responsibility and accountability, exactly what we need to help put Vancouver’s finances back in order. Louis advocates elected Neighbourhood Councils with control over large developments that have “a fundamental impact on the neighbourhood as a whole” to “force the developer to put forth a proposal that’s not there for the benefit of just the developer but for the benefit of the community.”

<http://cope.bc.ca/election2011/teamcope/louis/>

Bill McCreery (NPA) This former TEAM Parks Board Commissioner and member of City Council’s False Creek Planning Committee has practiced architecture in Vancouver for 38 years and is the recipient of numerous design and heritage awards. He co-authored “Ferry Crossing of Burrard Inlet” leading to our Sea Buses. In recent years his extensive knowledge of urban design has helped residents in the West End, Mount Pleasant, Marpole and Eastside neighbourhoods evaluate development proposals. McCreery helped expose Vision Vancouver’s STIR program as an affordability fraud that subsidizes developers up to \$100,000 per unit for high-end rentals.

<http://www.billmccreery.com/page/meet%20bill.aspx>

Ellen Woodsworth (COPE) is one of the hardest working Councillors Vancouver has ever known. She has served as Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee and representative to the Union of BC Municipalities and the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee. Others on Council are eager to claim credit for combating homelessness, but Woodsworth has been the conscience and driving force. She shares NSV’s support for community voice in decision making and has been a strong advocate for the aspirations and concerns of residents from Hastings-Sunrise to West Point Grey.

<http://cope.bc.ca/election2011/teamcope/woodsworth/>