WARD 1

Willie Davis



Lives in: High Point

Contact: whdavis89@yahoo.com

Age: 54

Profession: Murrow's Transfer driver

Highest degree earned:

Leadership experience: I serve on the citizen advisory council; we review plans for the use of HUD funds and grants that benefit citizens with low to moderate income.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful council member? I have not been elected yet but I do have the willingness to serve and the time to listen to the needs of the people in Ward 1 as well as other wards.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? Too much red tape that businesses need to get started. We need to be more business-friendly.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? Attracting new business to our city. Our residents need jobs. Another one will be City Project.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? No comment.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? Commit to putting funds in the workforce and help develop an educated workforce.

Do you support the council's elimination of City Project as a city department, a reduction in funding to the revitalization effort and the transfer of the executive director's job? Why or why not? City Project and the director can continue to be affected no matter where they are located.

Jo Williams



Lives in: High Point

Age: 67

Profession: Retired

Highest degree earned: Bachelor of arts in public administration, Shaw University; certificate in nonprofit management, Duke University

Leadership experience: Director of Triad Food Pantry for more than 25 years

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful council member? I have experience in many areas that will make me an excellent council member.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? I will listen to the people in the different wards.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? The loss of revenue.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? I do not know enough to comment at this time, but I am open and will listen to all proposals.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? Increase and make our city more friendly to families so they will relocate to our city.

Do you support the council's elimination of City Project as a city department, a reduction in funding to the revitalization effort and the transfer of the executive director's job? Why or why not? I support any and all efforts to revitalize our city.

Jeffrey Golden (i)



Lives in: High Point

Contact: jjgolden2@aol.com; Councilman Jeff Golden on Facebook

Age: 51

Profession: Licensed practical nurse

Highest degree earned: Associate's degree, LPN-paramedic

Leadership Experience: Member of High Point City Council; founder of two nonprofits; veteran of Gulf War; staff sergeant U.S. Army

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful council member? My experience gives me insight into the the needs of the city. It has allowed me to have a better understanding of how certain aspects of city government work.

What, if anything can the city do to promote economic development? I think the city has a fair incentive policy for big business but nothing for small business. There are some things that we can do that do not include monetary incentives, like free utilities for startups advertising on city-owned websites, etc.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? Dealing with possible shortcoming of fees generated by certain licensures and permitting fees

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? Yes, I do. I think having some type of alliance will assist in bringing the city together and developing a long-term straegic plan for the city.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? I think we can retain certain businesses by rewarding loyalty and hard work. We could develop some type of promotion of long-standing businesses through our Convention and Visitors Bureau and chamber so they will get extra recognition and again create incentives for new businesses.

Do you support the council's elimination of City Project as a city department, a reduction in funding to the revitalization effort and the transfer of the executive director's job? Why or why not? I support bringing the position in-house for the sake of accountability to quantify the spending of more than $200,000 of taxpayers' monies. The same money will be spent, and I don't think it will reduce the revitalization efforts at all.

Jerry Mingo



Lives in: High Point

Contact: jerry47hi5@yahoo.com

Age: 67

Profession: Retired

Highest degree earned: Not answered

Leadership experience: Held several supervisor positions for 35 years; former chairman of the High Point Weed and Seed Steering Committee; present volunteer site coordinator for High Point VITA Tax Program; chairman of the High Point Citizen Advisory Council; president of the Burns Hill Neighborhood Association.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful council member? I think there is no value in prior elected experience. Many of our former presidents and members of Congress had no or limited elected experience. You have to be elected to an office to get elected experience.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? There is no one answer to economic development. Indeed, solutions should flow from private and public sectors. What is clear is that we need to identify what works in cities with similar demographics and see if they can work here.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? Transparency is a pressing issue. Council must realize it can not spend itself into prosperity. It must set realistic expectations as to projected revenue and cut spending until the city has better economic times.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? I do not know much about the proposed business alliance in High Point. When I am better informed as to their intent and purpose, I will let you know then if I support it.

How can High Point retain local business while attracting new ones? In order to attract new businesses, there are several things that a company looks at, including price of land, infrastructure, employee pool, tax structure, friendly city government, schools and incentives. This may be the way to attract and retain businesses in High Point.

Do you support the council's elimination of City Project as a city department, a reduction in funding to the revitalization effort and the transfer of the executive director's job? Why or why not? I have to do more research on this issue in order to make an informed statement.

WARD 2

Chris Williams



Lives in: High Point

Contact: cjwilliams7@hotmail.com; www.chrisforcitycouncil.com

Age: 42

Profession: Logistics for International Market Centers

Highest degree earned: High school diploma

Leadership experience: I have worked with a number of community organizations, such as groups that worked toward crime prevention, food and other assistance for the disadvantaged.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful council member? By having an open mind to good ideas and having a strong line of communication with my constituents. I will also rely on my community volunteering experience, programs such as High Point Community Against Violence, Fresh Start and Sincerely Agape Ministry.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? Support education incentives for a more skilled High Point employee base. I would also consider tax and/or property incentives for qualified companies.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? I think the property tax shortfall and city revitalization.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? I do because we need a more unified voice in the cit y's revitalization efforts. But I do so with caution.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? We should weigh the cost against the benefit of tax, education, property, cash incentives. Then act accordingly to the benefit of the city and its citizens.

Do you support the council's elimination of City Project as a city department, a reduction in funding to the revitalization effort and the transfer of the executive director's job? Why or why not? When it comes to the use of city funds, as long as there is productivity and, more importantly, accountability to the city and its citizens, I can work with it.