

Additional Questions
Fairfield City Council Candidate Forum
September 26, 2020

Name of Candidate: Delon Jackson
District # 4, Fairfield City Council

1. Our streets and roads continue to deteriorate. How do you plan to improve them and pay for this and other important infrastructure needs?

Even though we are dealing with COVID 19, we still have an obligation and commitment to keep the promise of the voters who voted for Measure P. Until we as a city are told what the effects of this pandemic have done to our economy, we still should continue to build and repair our street and the infrastructure. What we do know is that we will lose some sales taxes and property taxes throughout the city; yes, taxes play a big part in strengthening our City infrastructure. However, we also gained, not in a way any city would want, but we also gained because some of our departments had to limit their service throughout the city, it is saving the City money. For the future, we need to assign a financial analysis to each department, and its mission is to itemize the needs of each department and save money by capping unnecessary and unneeded purchases. It would also help support other departments that require the need for money, say "Infrastructure."

2. COVID has had a significant impact on many local businesses. What steps can the city take to support local businesses during this challenging time?

The sad thing about COVID 19 is that it just does not impact businesses; it also impacts homeowners and renters. We know and have seen the devastation COVID 19 has already done to big businesses (Ex. 24hr Fitness and others). We also see the effects with small businesses that can't survive because of the lack of customers. We must remember, and be honest; we will not save every business because every city within the county is seeking grants and government subsidiaries to stay open, just like us. Even the grants that are giving to businesses that win the lottery are limited. We still have businesses in our city that did not meet the criteria for the lottery. The immediate step we must take is to conduct a SWOP Analysis of all businesses that are still operating. Once we know the strength and weaknesses of the business, we now know the needs of that business and the direction we as a city must take to help that business to stay open. We need to continue to lobby for more money for our businesses immediately. As we assigned a certified lobbyist to take our issue to the capital, they don't leave until we get what we want for our businesses. As for the landowners, we as a city need to sit down with the owners and the banks and try to come up with a short-term

plan and a long-term plan for businesses. A joint effort with the Chamber of Commerce and other Association can negotiate a city loan to be paid back through no interest to help jump-start existing businesses and businesses that we lose. But we have to have a SWOP Analysis to have a better understanding of the business and what we must present to get the grants, loans, and other monetary programs.

3. How do you feel the Nixle system worked during the recent emergency? What do you feel needs to be improved and what aspects worked well?

Some people have issues with the system, and others didn't. I feel in any pandemic or rush to get things done; any system will fail, freeze, or delay information. When working on a wi-fi, social media, or technology, you still need human input. As for Nixle, it did what it could, based on what we have. I was pleased that the system let us know which area to evacuate. I would like to see more impact on what direction the fire is going and the air quality for elders. We also need to inform the elders that they need to evacuate earlier because of health issues.

As for the location of safety, we can always improve and get better. We must acknowledge that our city is located in a high alert fire burn area and that we need to improve our Nixle system and evacuation routes. We need an alert to businesses that could begin to assist in food and water, necessities that are needed for handicap, elderly and infants, and young toddlers. We need to partner with Hospitals and American Medical Response Units via Nixle

4. The timeline for addressing Homelessness is inadequate. What do you feel is a more realistic timeline for addressing this critical issue?

Homelessness is a universal issue; it's been here before we were born, and it will be hereafter we die. We will never be able to rid Homelessness. However, we deal with four types of Homelessness: 1) Mental Health, 2) Substance Abuse, 3) Unemployment/Prisoners Released, and 4) Independent/ Self Choice. Homelessness is more than acquiring beds or offering resources; it takes not just the city and county; it takes the courts to help solve these issues that affect businesses, citizens, and homeowners. The city has a homeless program with the police department that is working. However, they are limited in personnel and support from the Court system.

I want to propose building a facility that would house the homeless in a designated area that is safe for the homeless and the citizens. If we can join forces with the county, and collaborate with all the cities in the county and advocate groups, we should be able to build or expand Mission Solano or other like type facilities. In those facilities, we will have a 24hr Soup kitchen

that houses many beds, showers, clothes, and on-site resources that deal with the mentally ill, substance abuse, unemployment, and re-entry program. The location has to be in an industrial area, with many restrictions and rules. This facility will have different locations or areas that houses men, women, and children. We must address the elephant in the room now than later.

As a city, we need to tag red zones, yellow zones, and the green zone. The zone reminds the city where the homeless live, and if the locations are dangerous or hazardous to themselves or others. Another zone will display time when the area is safe or not. Then we will have safe zones for the public. Red Zones are where the homeless are living or staying where there is heavy traffic. Yellow Zone are areas where they are limited to stay, and the area closes. Green Zone is a safe location and non-hazardous.

We would also have post signage displayed for the safety of the homeless and the awareness of the city.

If it works, others will send their homeless problem to our city, which becomes another issue. The timeline is now