

To: Friends of Harford, Inc
From: Dion F. Guthrie Candidate
Harford County Council District A

Subject: County Council Candidate Question's

3/28/2018

1. What improvements are needed for your District?

There are many, the last four years has been a nightmare for our District. There has been from, very little done, to nothing done.

The roads are in poor condition, the curbs and gutters, in Joppatown area for the most part, are nonexistent.

Joppatown High School is in need of repair, if not replaced. Joppatown is in need of a Community Center. Edgewood is in need of restoration and William Paca/Old Post schools need to be replaced and before they spend \$100,000,000 on Havre de Grace High School which is not needed at this time but they will build it anyway, as they did for the library in Havre de Grace, they did not need, cost over \$9,000,000 was supposed to be 7.2 million I voted against that approbation and wanted the money to go into salaries for Teachers and Sheriff Deputies. I was voted down by the rest of the council.

2. What Legislation do you plan to introduce for your district? For the County? If you are an incumbent, what legislation have you introduced?

The very 1st piece of legislation I plan to introduce is for our District A to get our fair share of the Hotel/Motel Tax. Havre de Grace gets ½ of that tax, plus more & Aberdeen gets ½ of that tax, plus more and what we get compare to the other areas, through District A raises the most money from that Tax, by far, is penny's. I will introduce a bill for District A to get ½ the tax raise in District A, to be distributed in District A. I served on the Council from 2001 through 2014 and had numerous pieces of legislation passed through I was in the small minority. A bill which now prevents the County from buying property and paying what they please, which they had done so many times, without getting the property appraised. Now they must get 2 appraisals before they enter into a contract and cannot spend more than the highest appraisal. Prevented a bill passed to allow a trash transfer station to be built on the former Plecker property on RT. 7. Prevented a bill passed to put a new incinerator plant where the new Kohl's facility is on Trimble Rd, which now employees upwards of 3000 people at peak season and eliminated to old incinerator plant between Edgewood and Joppatown which had caused many of our citizens to get cancer and many died in that area. Help to get legislation passed to build a new Edgewood High School and a new Dearfield Elementary School \$15 million additions to Joppatown Elementary school, new turf fields for Joppatown High School, new lighting for Copenhagen Park in Joppatown , a new handicap ramp added to Joppatown High School, they never had one before, new turf fields for Edgewood High School, many new sidewalks installed where there were none ect ect. Also passed a bill to give over 160 family's, in the incinerator area, a tax break, until this old incinerator was demolished.

3. How would you include or engage more people to provide input to the Council's decisions?

By keeping them informed through media outlets and snail mail as needed. On major legislation encourage them to come to County Council meetings in great numbers as I have done in the past. I have packed the chambers several times.

4. Would you be willing to explain your voting decisions on the dais for each bill to vote upon?

Yes & I have, especially when you are voting "NO", needs an explanation.

5. Would you support better ways to provide the public with user-friendly notification of decisions by DAC and Zoning Board of Appeals? If so, How?

I think the timing of the DAC hearings are ridiculous, to have these meetings at 9AM is not fair to the public. I think those meetings should be held at 6PM and in the Council Chambers. To provide the public with "notification" after the fact, is to late for the public to have any input.

6. Would you vote in favor of term limits for County Council members? Explain.

Why? You already have term limits, it is called elections. If someone has been on the Council for 8 years and doing a great job, why do you want to take them off. We are already losing members of the School Board for that reason, makes no sense. The school board has term limits and that is not working.

7. How do you propose to solve the County's traffic problems in your district?

We need to provide for more public transportation and better roads.

8. What part of Zoning code do you feel need to be changed?

I feel the entire Zoning code needs to be revamped and updated. We should appoint a 9-member commission to go over the zoning code and bring it up to date. Many provisions of the zoning code are in the wrong place and there should be more selections in the Code as the County has grown.

9. Do you feel it's time for noise and lighting legislation in Harford County?

Yes, long overdue.

10. Do you approve of General Industrial (GI) zoning adjacent to residential communities or within a Village District? If your answer is "No" how do you reconcile your disapproval with Harford Next and recent Comprehensive Zoning Review decisions?

The simple answer is no, but a very complicated issue. What do you do about the areas that already have that zoning? Where does the land border on? What piece of property?

I think you have to weigh each proposal on its individual merits or lack of.

11. Do you agree with the reduction in the number of County inspections on construction sites when only 34 percent of contractors are in compliance with the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance?

Absolutely not. There should be more, not less. The sediment coming into our streams leading into our waterways is getting worse and worse, costing millions of dollars in dredging our waterways. And when they do dredge, they don't do what they contract calls for but Park & Rec pays them anyway, Ridiculous! Right now, we are going thru the recent dredging of the Joppatown basin. We feel they did not complete the dredging as contracted for. Myself and the "river keeper" are going out in a small boat and do "sounding" in this dredging area to check it out. The county does not send anybody out to check to see if the contractor did its job.

Respectfully Submitted



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Harford County Council
District A