

Here is an update on some important current issues.

My Resignation as District 1 Commissioner to run for Mayor and Election of New Commissioner

I have filed my resignation as your commissioner effective May 31, 2012. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your commissioner. However, the Florida 'Resign to Run' law requires me to resign because I am running for Orlando Mayor.

That means that there will be a vacancy in the office of District 1 Commissioner effective June 1, 2012. The position will be filled in the regular City election to be held on April 3, 2012. That election will be held to fill the positions of Orlando Mayor and City Commissioners for Districts 2, 4 and 6 (as well as District 1 Commissioner).

Due to redistricting, significant portions of District 1 must be moved out of the current district 1 in order to balance the population of the districts. Therefore, many of you will become part of new City Commission districts-specifically Districts 2 and 4.

Several people have asked about the rules to run for district Commissioner and how the new district lines would affect those rules-especially because many people will be living in a new district for the April 3, 2012 election. There is a rule in the City that says you have to live in a district for a year before you are eligible to run for Commissioner of that district. However, that rule will not apply this year. You are still required to have lived in the City for at least one year. But, in years where district boundaries are changing because of census redistricting you do not have to live in a particular District to run for District Commissioner of that district. And, you do not have to have lived in that district for one year to run for District Commissioner of that district. However, according to the assistant city attorney, you must move into the district that you will be representing by the time that you will take office. If you are interested you can see a brief discussion of that issue at <http://www.cityoforlando.net/council.htm>, click on October 3, 2011 2 p.m. City Council meeting and go to 2:10:15 on the video.

District Picnic

I have decided to cancel the Annual Fall Picnic at Wadeview Park that would have been scheduled for October. This was a very hard decision and one I struggled with. We have had many successful district picnics over the past few years. They are great community events where neighbors meet neighbors and have an opportunity to meet with City staff and other elected officials to discuss issues of concern. Citizens have also donated tremendous amounts of food and money for Second Harvest Food Bank at these events.

However, I cannot in good conscience agree to spend taxpayer money for this event right now. I have often voted against spending City funds and have expressed concerns that the City's finances are not sound. When money is tight – we should act accordingly. This is your taxpayer money. So I have decided to set aside this money so that it can be allocated to needed projects in our district.

Questions or Comments

If you have any other questions, comments or concerns, please call me at 407-246-2001 or email me at phil.diamond@cityoforlando.net . My aide, Jeanne Wilson, can be reached at 407-246-3011 or email at jeanne.wilson@cityoforlando.net and Police Officer Edgar Malave can be reached at 407-246-2513 or email at edgar.malave@cityoforlando.net. Our website is www.cityoforlando.net/district1.