



GARY

WHITE

for **MAYOR**

Do you support the movement of the Cruise Ship Terminal from Union Pier to the Columbus Street Terminal, Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr. Terminal, or Veterans Terminal?

If the cruise ship terminal was to be moved to Columbus Street, Leatherman or Veterans Terminal it would mean that the existing Union Pier terminal would continue to be used for roll on roll off cargo ships, a parking lot for 1000's of vehicles and an eyesore of dilapidated warehouses in the heart of our city. If we are going to have cruise ships I would like to see the State Ports Authority build a new terminal that can be designed to move traffic off our streets and eliminate traffic congestion when a cruise ship is in port. Additionally, as Mayor, I will support and take an active leadership role in getting onshore power for cruise ships while at the dock.

Do you support the Amendments to the Accommodations Overlay Ordinance proposed by the Hotel Task Force?

I served as a member of the hotel task force and I played an active role in the formation of the amendments. Additionally, I worked very hard with my colleagues on City Council to get the ordinance amendment approved.

Do you prioritize resident livability over continued growth in tourism?

Yes

In August of 2016, the City of Charleston formed the West Ashley Revitalization Committee (WARC) and in 2017 they hired a consultant firm to create Plan West Ashley. This process was created to be a blueprint to address many oft-repeated challenges here, including economic development, traffic, green space, and housing. Do you feel that the City has effectively budgeted to include projects outlined in the Plan's Implementation Matrix? How would your administration direct the WARC and address the Implementation Matrix adopted by Council?

I want West Ashley to thrive and continue to attract families and new businesses, now and far into the future. To me the revitalization of West Ashley means having beautifully landscaped medians and shoulders, bike and pedestrian facilities, underground wiring, consistent and attractive signage, crosswalks, synchronized traffic lights, and everything that creates a great living environment. The current administration has developed a West Ashley Revitalization Committee (WARC) and spent a tremendous amount of tax payer's money on a consultant to develop the West Ashley Plan. To date, the Mayor has not requested funding for any portion of the West Ashley Plan to be implemented. In fact, when Councilmember Bill Moody requested that the City allocate \$500,000 to go towards underground wiring on Hwy 17 the Mayor fought against the request. I supported this request along with my colleagues and ultimately we were able to get these funds appropriated despite the Mayor's objection to providing funding for West Ashley. The West Ashley Plan was been complete since 2017 and two years later no action has been taken, nothing has changed, and the West Ashley Plan is gathering dust on the shelf. The members of the WARC have gotten so frustrated with the lack of implementation or execution that they often have trouble even getting a quorum to have a meeting. The West Ashley Plan has not had any meaningful components of it implemented. As Mayor, I will work with my colleagues on City Council that represent West Ashley and the neighborhood presidents to prioritize the recommendations within the Implementation Matrix and begin identifying the funding sources necessary to get them accomplished.

What should be done to address infrastructure needs and development on Johns Island?

We need to have infrastructure before development. I voted against a recent Planned Unit Development at the corner of Maybank and River Road. Although the developer was going to donate land to the City for road improvements, there was no funding to pay for the road itself. I did not believe it was a good idea to approve a Planned Unit Development at an already very congested intersection before we had the infrastructure to support it. Moving forward we must take a much more thoughtful approach to planning to ensure that our infrastructure is not overwhelmed by development.

Please describe the role you believe the Urban Growth Boundary plays in development on Johns Island and

what, if anything, should be done to preserve/enforce it.

The role of the Urban Growth Boundary is to control urban sprawl. Higher density development should be focused on our Urban/Suburban areas where infrastructure and services exist and can support it. Moving forward, the City and Charleston County need to work together to further strengthen our regional support and enforcement of the Urban Growth Boundary.

How do you propose to work with the Charleston County government to address challenges specific to Johns Island?

Over the years I have built very strong working relationships with many of my peers on Charleston County Council. I understand the need to work with all the municipalities across our region to ensure that we are all working towards a common goal. As Mayor, I will continue to work with my colleagues on Charleston County Council to ensure that we are able to efficiently and effectively address the needs and challenges of Johns Island.