



GARY

WHITE

*for* MAYOR

## Flooding Questions & Answers

**Our neighborhoods are passionate about our trees. The current tree trimming methodology of SCE&G (now Dominion Energy) is necessary for functionality but many times disastrous to the trees. How would your administration work with neighborhoods continue making the long-term health of the trees a priority just as supplying energy is also a priority? Would your administration consider reviewing the financial burden of burying power lines so more neighborhoods could afford it as part of the franchise agreement?**

Underground wiring is not only aesthetically pleasing and eliminates the need for tree trimming, but it is also very helpful in maintaining power to our residents and businesses during storms. I have already begun having conversations with Dominion Energy executives about building a plan to provide underground wiring along with West Ashley's major roadways. Additionally, I will proactively work with Dominion and our City's Chief Financial Officer to identify ways that we can provide more access to undergrounding wiring in neighborhoods through the franchise agreement.

**Flooding is a growing problem in the Charleston region. Do you feel the current initiatives to combat flooding are adequate? If not, what would you change or add to these initiatives to address this issue?**

The City of Charleston continues to experience numerous flooding issues. Unfortunately, due to limited financial resources combined with well-publicized inadequate planning, a myriad of disparate opinions from a multitude of commercial and environmental studies, and the inexperience of the current administration, there remains no clear path on how to protect the critical infrastructure of the Holy City or its residents from this potentially catastrophic environmental dilemma. The city does not need any more studies on flooding, it's time for action. Flooding has been an issue in the Charleston area for many years. Over the last few years, Charleston has experienced more and more significant weather events that have compounded this on-going problem. Additionally, many areas in Charleston that have not experienced flooding in the past, are now starting to see the effects of flooding. **Deferred maintenance** has contributed and significantly exacerbated the City's flooding problem. The dilemma facing the citizens of Charleston now is that there are numerous flooding issues to address and currently not enough financial resources or experienced leadership to address them. A twenty-year strategic plan is necessary to address Charleston's immediate to long-term issues of flooding and drainage. **My plan will start by addressing our immediate opportunity, maintenance AKA 'the low hanging fruit'**. Part of the maintenance plan must include developing a complete inventory of every outfall, pipe, storm drain and ditch that currently exists in the City of Charleston. As a going concern, the best management policies must be implemented including fiscal responsibility, cost-benefit analysis, and implementation of value engineering. The City has a number of very large projects that will require hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to be completed. To ensure the City has adequate resources to complete these projects, work on funding sources must be started immediately and be combined with building strong relationships with Federal, State, and County governments.