



Greetings! You may know Clarence “CC” Carter. Below he tells us why, after I entered the City Council race, he changed his support from Traci to me. If his words resonate with you, please post on social media, share with friends, colleagues and family and encourage them to vote for me also. We cannot afford four more years of what’s happening now!!



Greetings Neighbors,

I continue to be stopped by numerous neighbors asking me who I'm voting for in the City Council race. **Let me be clear, I am voting for Mike Newhouse.**

In my effort to be transparent, I thought I should just go ahead and send this out to the same list I pass on all our neighborhood info. As some of you may have been aware, I supported Traci Park, prior to Mike Newhouse joining the race. When Mike entered the race I did not immediately switch my support. Mike approached me and asked me why I was not supporting him after I had consistently encouraged him to run for over a decade? I told Mike that I had nothing but respect for everything he had done for the neighborhood, and the Westside for the past 20 years, but I needed to have a very candid

conversation with him before I could support him. We sat down, neighbor to neighbor, and met for an hour and a half. Below are the questions I asked, and Mike's responses.

My first question was, "Do you believe we need more Homeless Shelters in Venice?"

Mike's immediate response was **NO**. He then explained that he was the only Candidate who had *an actual plan* to get encampments off our sidewalks, and to do it with specific dates, deadlines, and deliverables. He explained that he has a realistic, urgent (and previously, successfully tried and true) 30 day plan to clear encampments which will **save lives and restore neighborhoods**. He urged me to review that plan on his website <https://newhouseforla.com/issues/homelessness/> which I committed to doing after our meeting.

He also mentioned two-dozen debates and interviews that he has participated in where he discusses his plan in detail. He also told me that no other candidates have a detailed plan on their sites, nor do they discuss an actual plan in debates or interviews. I told him I would check this fact, and he was right.

Mike went on to say "he believes that we must end encampments and treat and house the unhoused, *immediately*, starting on day one in office. We have been "evaluating," "considering," and "looking at options" for too long. It is unkind to let people die on the streets. We need to clear the streets now, compassionately, providing necessary services and additional shelters, *away from* residential and commercial areas. We need to also increase the sanitation budget, create a city mental health agency and get the police officers who are working behind desks, back on the street." I agreed, 100%.

My next question, "Did you support the Ramada?"

Mike reminded me that he has always been – and still is - *strongly against* siting project Room Key and Home Key properties, like the Ramada, in most of CD 11 because of *the inefficiently high cost per unit* in some of the highest priced real estate in the world. He said he would have taken the money used to purchase the Ramada and found cheaper hotels/motels where we could have housed 300 people, instead of 33 people. He then mentioned that after the Ramada was sprung on us, Mike organized the meetings between our neighborhood, PATH and the Council Office to examine a different location, and at a minimum, to establish concrete standards and conditions for management of the project that would allow the site to house people, without detriment to our neighborhood.

I then asked, "Why run now?"

Mike said he has resisted calls over the last decade to run because his boys were so young and he was building his law firm. Instead, he chose to serve our community as President of the Venice Neighborhood Council for two terms, Chair of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, and President of the City's Planning Commission for the Westside. He then said frankly -- and I appreciated the frankness -- that he was compelled to run once Greg Good entered the race, with millions of dollars of backing from the same interests that backed Mike Bonin. He has known Greg for many years, and feels he is a

good person, but Greg will continue Mike Bonin's policies for another 4, if not 8 or 12, years. He went on to say after watching Traci's campaign closely for eight months, Mike also frankly felt that Traci simply could not beat Greg; she simply doesn't have the relevant experience. Her only experience has been on the campaign trail. Other than generalities and platitudes, she had – and still has - no actual, concrete plan – no specifics, timelines or deadlines - to tackle the homelessness crises. She simply says it has to be addressed and that is really the only issue she talks about.

Mike made it very clear that he did not intend to disrespect Traci, or any other candidate, which I appreciated. He said he believes she, and they, are all smart, earnest and hardworking people. And other than Traci, Mat and Soni, Mike has also known and worked with all of the candidates in the community and/or at the city level over the last 15 years plus. That being said, this is an extremely tough job, representing a HUGE geographic area, almost 300k constituents and complex issues that include the homeless crises, a crumbling infrastructure and much more. He said we need someone who not only “talks” about taking the right positions, but someone who presents a coherent, detailed and realistic plan to tackle our problems *and* someone who can actually execute that plan on the ground and that person was him.

Mike said his detailed action plans, which no other candidate has offered, are born of decades of advocating for all of the neighborhoods on the Westside in City Hall, as well as most of the Departments that make up the City bureaucracy. Mike has known and worked with almost all of the City Council members whom he would serve with, as well as most of the candidates who are likely to get elected this cycle. And, *while NOT a career bureaucrat (he is a small business owner)*, Mike has extensive City Hall knowledge; importantly he knows and has worked with most of the department heads - folks he will have to work with once elected. He is the only candidate that has the track record, experience, disposition and relationships to get things done, starting day one in office. Mike frankly told me that no candidate can match that (particularly Traci); and after also following this race closely, I concur. Mike then said running a campaign for less than a year simply isn't a substitute for decades of actual experience. Getting elected is only the first step. This is why I'm supporting Mike.

I then Asked, “Are you tied to Mike Bonin?”

Mike said emphatically NO. He said while he knows Bonin and his husband Sean, having worked with Bonin while President of the VNC and WRAC and the WLA APC, they do NOT have a social relationship. And, to clear up what would no doubt be a somewhat amusing rumor to both Mikes ... He was NOT in Mike Bonin's wedding. *Mike said he strongly disagrees with what Bonin has done over the past 2-3 years.* He said for several years, Mike has continuously tried to get Bonin to listen more to his constituents and to change course on homelessness and other critical issues. But, he realized a few years ago that Bonin had tunnel vision and was not going to listen. Mike said when he realized no one else in the city council race actually had a concrete plan to change course and the experience to do so, and that out of fear Greg Good might actually win, Mike jumped in the race. **He said any suggestion that Mike Newhouse is Bonin 2.0 is not only ridiculous, but purposely misleading and dishonest.** Mike said his platform from day one, detailed on his website, makes it very clear they are very different people, with starkly different approaches to

solving CD11's and Los Angeles' pressing issues, including the homeless crises; so much so, that Bonin got into it with him at an event a few months ago. He then told me that Bonin has been helping to run Erin Darling's campaign; and in fact just officially endorsed Erin Darling. Greg Good and Erin Darling will be Bonin 2.0 ... let's keep our eye on the ball!

Then Mike said to me very bluntly, come on man you know me! Remember that for the last 15 years, you me and my wife Ruthie along with a few other neighbors, have worked together to bring about change in our neighborhood. He said Together, we have helped to get (1) new sidewalks for neighbors in wheelchairs and using walkers; (2) RV Restriction Signs; (3) Speed Bumps; (4) a DO NOT BLOCK intersection at Garfield and Grant; and (5) we have put on one of the Best July 4th Parties on the Westside, for 8 years running. **Traci was never a part of any of that** He reminded me that we both volunteered time on the Venice Neighborhood Council and I was one of many who encouraged him to run, for years, because his voice needed to be heard and his positive track record speaks for itself. **We have accomplished a lot for this neighborhood and we both did it all for free. Mike has never taken a dollar for his service.** We did not just start to take care of this community when Mike started to run for office. Neither of us were planning to move because we didn't like what we saw happening to our community. We've been working to make our neighborhood, our community, our district and our city better, cleaner and stronger for all, and have been doing this together for over 15 years together. I've watched Mike and Ruthie's two boys grow up, we spend time together, we break bread together; we are neighbors; we are friends.

Having served in the trenches with Mike, I can tell you Mike was the best Leader the Venice Neighborhood Council ever had. He knows how to get the things done, won't have a learning curve in City Council and can hit the ground running on Day 1. We need real change, now let's help Mike get'er done!

That's why I changed my vote from Traci to Mike Newhouse for City Council; I've made my choice!

Clarence "CC" Carter
President of First Team Security
Former Chair of Venice Neighborhood Council Public Safety Committee*

*Used for identification purposes only

[From homelessness to public safety, our problems are difficult, but the solutions are not. All that's required is bold, energetic and enthusiastic leadership at City Hall. But we cannot do this without your help. Can you chip in \\$5, \\$10, \\$15, or whatever you can today to help us usher in a new era for the Westside?](#)

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