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CITY COUNCIL POS 4

LYNNWOOD TIMES

Candidate interviews for Lynnwood City Council **P3**

Seattle Seahawks help at Lynnwood Food Bank **P2**

Candidate interviews for Superior Court Position 17 **P6**

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Two board members out at disgraced Lynnwood Public Facilities District



Lynnwood Public Facilities District Board member Vivian Dong (center) pictured with some of the twenty-four supporters that filled the Lynnwood City Council on Monday, October 9, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By **GEORGE FTIKAS**

LYNNWOOD—The Lynnwood City Council rejected reappointing Vivian Dong and Mike Miller to the Public Facilities District (PFD) board in a 4-2 vote during their October 9 business meeting.

The vote went as followed:

- Councilmember George Hurst: No
- Councilmember Joshua Binda: No
- Councilmember Shirley Sutton: No
- Councilmember Patrick Decker: Yes
- Councilmember Jim

- Council Vice President Julieta Altamirano-Crosby: Abstain
- Council President Shannon Sessions: No

The conduct of the PFD board has been a recurring topic during public comments since the attempted removal of Dong by the board back in July.

Virtually all of the 37 speakers during the nearly two hours of public comments on October 9 either voiced their support for Dong (two-thirds) or the PFD board and Miller (one-third).

Prior to public comments, the

council voted to extend the allocated time from 30 minutes to one hour based on the number of people who signed up to speak, later extending the time again to allow everyone to speak.

Smith recounted his experience attending the PFD meeting as the council liaison as well as his own findings into the vote of no confidence. Smith stated that while he is “not faulting board members,” he believed the PFD board acted improperly and on “erroneous information.”

“After just two meetings, to come up with this three-page

letter that’s all wrong makes no sense to me,” Smith said.

Decker agreed with Smith, stating that both Miller and Dong “can continue to do great work” on the PFD board.

“Let’s put the matter behind us,” Decker said. “Fully seat the board and ask the board to get back to the business of supporting our Lynnwood community.”

Hurst and Binda supported an amendment to remove Dong from the vote for reappointment, which failed in a 2 (years)- 3 (nays) - 2 (abstentions) vote.

Hurst believed that Dong’s social media activities prior to the Olympus Spa rally were grounds for removal, while Binda stated that Dong was promoting a “trend of division” and alleged she was involved in his recalled effort.

“I have to respect the four board members of the public facilities district,” Hurst said. “I respect Vivian Dong as a community activist, but I think she overstepped the bounds, as far as being a board member for the Public Facilities District in Lynnwood, by her

Continued **PAGE 8** >>

NICK Coelho
LYNNWOOD

CITY COUNCIL POS 4

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“Nick has a clear understanding of the importance of quality public safety.”



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Seattle Seahawks help at Lynnwood Food Bank amidst volunteer shortage

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—Four former Seattle Seahawks, who took the team to a Super Bowl 48 Championship for the 2013 season against the Denver Broncos, donated their time on Saturday, September 23, for the Back to Action campaign at the Lynnwood Food Bank. The campaign is to raise awareness and increase volunteerism at food banks across Washington.

The Back to Action campaign partners up Northwest Harvest, Safeway, the Washington Food Coalition, Vault89 Strategies, the Seattle Seahawks, and King5 with the goal to sign up 3,000 or more food bank volunteers for Hunger Resource Organizations across the state before December 31.

The athletes included Seattle Seahawks defensive tackle Red Bryant, long snapper Clint Gresham, guard Paul McQuistan, and defensive tackle Brandon Mebane who spent the day touring the site and learning the food bank's critical need for both volunteers and resources before slapping on gloves and participating in a bulk food competition, scooping oats and rice into 3-4 cup bags for easy distribution to families.

Annually, the Lynnwood Food Bank, located at 5320 176th Street Southwest, collects and distributes over a million pounds of food per year, serving an average of 3,000 households (or 10,500 individuals) a month for the 2023 fiscal year (July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023) —a 50% increase in need from the previous fiscal year.

To continue providing this valuable



Melissa Bryan (center) with Lynnwood Food Bank President Mike Miller and Lynnwood City Council Vice President Julieta Altamirano-Crosby during the Back to Action awareness event on September 23, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore

service to the community, the Lynnwood Food Bank need volunteers to collect, sort, safety check, and distribute groceries. They also need people that speak multiple languages, who are willing to do intakes and work in on the database (data entry), work on special projects like cooking demonstrations and more. The distribution days of Wednesday and Friday are the Lynnwood Food Bank's busiest days when extra hands are needed most.

"Lynnwood Food Bank serves a multicultural community with a diverse group of volunteers," Alissa Jones, Executive Director, Lynnwood Food Bank told the Lynnwood Times. "We welcome a variety of cultures, languages, backgrounds, LGBTQ+ and

truly enjoy our diverse volunteer community. In addition to hard work, we also grow as friends and have fun while working together. We are a community serving our own community and we hope you'll join us in making a difference in Lynnwood and South Snohomish County."

Roughly 9.6 million workers in the U.S. lost their jobs during the first few quarters of the COVID pandemic, according to Pew Research, leaving many scrambling to make ends meet.

With inflation rising, it only gives more importance to the work the Food Bank does, making a dent in the roughly 38 million people in the country who are food insecure.

"The honest truth is, for all of us, food is a little bit of a challenge coming in, in terms of donation," said Casey Davis, Executive Director for the Edmonds Food Bank.

Continued PAGE 8 >>



Marysville Mayor Jon Nehring speaking at his city's September 11 ceremony at its Civic Center on September 11, 2023. Source: Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

LYNNWOOD TIMES

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Candidate interviews for Lynnwood City Council

By MARIO LOTMORE



LYNNWOOD—In preparation for the upcoming General Election on November 7, 2023, the Lynnwood Times sat down with each of the Lynnwood City Council candidates to help you make an informed decision.

The Lynnwood Times conducted one-on-one interviews with each of the seven candidates over the course of two days, September 20 and September 23, to share their stance on community engagement, economic development, housing and growth, fiscal responsibility, public safety, and the environment. Each of the candidates were asked the same questions except for two questions – a question on their unique record or experience, and another question on behalf of their opponent. In the case of candidate George Hurst, who is running unopposed, he did not receive a question from his opponent for obvious reasons.

To listen to each candidate's complete, unabridged, answers to these questions, you may watch the full video interview, in the QR code above. The two unique questions relating to a candidate's record or experience, and on behalf of their opponent are within the last three questions in the video interview that are identified as questions 12 and 13.

Below are each of the candidate's re-

sponses as summarized by the Lynnwood Times. Please keep in mind that these summaries are interpreted and condensed, not direct quotes. For a complete and unedited response, readers are encouraged to watch the video interviews at the end of this article. The interviews were conducted at the Sno-Isle Lynnwood Library and South Lynnwood Park.

What are your top three priorities?

Jim Smith (position 4): Public safety is Smith's number one priority above all else.

Nick Coelho (position 4): Public safety, that the council has a long-term vision, and there is opportunity spread across the city.

Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby (position 5): Public safety, sustainable growth, and mental health.

Robert Leutwyler (position 5): Leutwyler's top three priorities are housing, transportation and road safety, and public health and safety.

Derek Hanusch (position 7): Hanusch values both sides of the aisle and would like to focus on easing the political divide. He also wants to focus on preparing the city for when the light rail opens next year and adding different sources of revenue rather than only retail sales tax.

David Parshall (position 7): Parshall's priorities are public safety, transporta-

tion, and preparing for growth.

George Hurst (position 6): Hurst's top three priorities are preparing for growth, which includes housing for all income levels, public safety, and sustainable infrastructure.

If given a \$500,000 grant to use in Lynnwood, how would you allocate it in the best interest of residents?

Jim Smith (position 4): Smith would use the funds to bolster the Lynnwood Police Force for the protection of Lynnwood residents and allocate the funds for a drug treatment center.

Nick Coelho (position 4): Coelho would use the funds to leverage for future grants, which is something the parks Department has done in the past, he said.

Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby (position 5): Julieta would allocate the funds for food security and reduce gang activity by establishing after school programs.

Robert Leutwyler (position 5): Leutwyler would like to use those funds to work with businesses and small businesses to clean up the city from paraphernalia, graffiti, and litter.

Derek Hanusch (position 7): Hanusch would like to donate some of the money to the Lynnwood Food Bank but, at large, help fund more ways of providing healthy, nutritious food such as farmer's markets.

David Parshall (position 7): Parshall would use the funds to support after school recreation programs for students and use some of it to go towards Snohomish County's LEAD program.

George Hurst (position 6): If Hurst was given a \$500,000 grant one of the first things Hurst would do is use it to build transitional housing.

Excluding changing housing and zoning codes, what would you propose to make Lynnwood better for seniors and those with disabilities?

Jim Smith (position 4): Smith empha-

Continued **PAGE 03 >>**



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from page 3 **LYNNWOOD CANDIDATES**

sized that the senior community is extremely important to him. He believes council members should meet seniors where they are to ask, first-hand, what their needs are.

Nick Coelho (position 4): Coelho would like to make parks and public spaces accessible and invest in social infrastructure – such as the Senior Center. He wants to ensure the council gives seniors a voice and make sure they feel heard.

Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby (position 5): Julieta believes the city is doing a great job to enhance the city’s accessibility as far as ADA and hopes to continue to do so as councilwoman. She hopes to expand services at the Senior Center

Robert Leutwyler (position 5): Leutwyler would like to focus on improving road safety and accessibility for seniors to get around without having to drive a car.

Derek Hanusch (position 7): Hanusch would like to focus on defending against property crimes.

David Parshall (position 7): Parshall would like to expand the Lynnwood Senior Center and improve its programs.

George Hurst (position 6): Hurst would like to preserve low-income housing for seniors, who are on a fixed income, whether it be controlled rent especially on mobile home parks where many Lynnwood seniors live, he said.

What do you think the City can do to increase engagement by people of color or underrepresented communities in the city’s economic development?

Nick Coelho (position 4): As a small business owner himself, Coelho believes that entrepreneurship is the path to middle class. Civic engagement, additionally, is a way to reach underrepresented communities.

Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby (position 5): Julieta mentioned Lynnwood council is currently working with Garry Clark, CEO of the Snohomish County Economic Alliance, to create a BIPOC Chamber for the county. She also mentioned some of her work she has done to offer bilingual classes in the region and included some of her works within the Latino community.

Robert Leutwyler (position 5): Leutwyler would like to speed up, and decrease costs of, the permitting process for small businesses to remove barriers for people of color to enter the business world in Lynnwood. He also thinks exploring a community land trust could be an innovative solution the city could consider.

Derek Hanusch (position 7): Hanusch returned to the opening of light rail

next year, which he says is going to attract more and more people – especially transients. He said he believes the city should do more to encourage homeless individuals to clean up trash.

David Parshall (position 7): Parshall would like to highlight BIPOC-owned businesses or host cultural events to expand engagement and education.

George Hurst (position 6): Hurst believes the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion should be more active and better at advising council, which he admits the council could be better at welcoming their advice.

How do you plan to involve residents in the decision-making process of the city?

Jim Smith (position 4): Smith wishes to release council members’ phone numbers to the public so they can be contacted at any time with concerns.

Nick Coelho (position 4): Building a civic culture where community engagement is promoted, Coelho said, is key. An example he gave is simply asking what resident’s priorities are so they can feel that changes happening within the city are happening with them, not just around them.

Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby (position 5): Julieta mentioned many of the city’s engagement events, such as the Fair on 44th and her Let’s Talk About Safety events where city officials meet residents to discuss their concerns.

Robert Leutwyler (position 5): Leutwyler would like to push for more engagement from the council on weekends or community events to allow people who may not be able to attend city council meeting and opportunity to voice their concerns and participate in local politics.

Derek Hanusch (position 7): Hanusch thinks the city does a good job with public comments at council meetings but believes there could be more outreach outside of council meetings such as conferences or events at the public library.

David Parshall (position 7): Parshall says he is already working on expanding community engagement by door knocking on resident’s houses to ask what issues they would like addressed. He would like to continue doing this as your city council member.

George Hurst (position 6): Hurst believes council members should get out of the council chambers and meet residents to ask their concerns. He mentioned that most residences with concerns normally only speak up at meetings once it’s already too late.

What do you feel are the top concerns facing small business owners in Lynnwood and what do you propose to address those concerns?

Jim Smith (position 4): Smith believes

in reducing taxes on business owners because “we need their services more than we need their tax dollars.” Additionally, he circled back to his commitment toward equipping the police force because he said cracking down on retail theft will also help support businesses.

Nick Coelho (position 4): Barriers of entry, Coelho reiterated, but also keeping business open and located in Lynnwood. He would like to reform zoning to build new spaces for local business owners to have accessible areas to open shop.

Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby (position 5): Safety is the biggest concern, both for business owners and the Lynnwood community at large, according to Dr. Altamirano-Crosby. To address this Dr. Altamirano-Crosby plans to hold a roundtable with local business owners to discuss how to implement a safety plan and address retail theft.

Robert Leutwyler (position 5): Leutwyler returned to his commitment to speeding up the permitting process for businesses opening a new establishment. He would also like to focus on keeping the streets clean.

Derek Hanusch (position 7): Hanusch believes that online shopping will eventually take over from brick and mortar.

He expects that most retail spaces will be replaced with apartment complexes and added that he’s more interested in exploring how business will be conducted in the city in the future.

David Parshall (position 7): Public safety, Parshall said, is a big issue as it relates to businesses. He noted that a big source of Lynnwood’s revenue is its retail presence, but business owners should feel safe to operate business in the city.

George Hurst (position 6): One of the biggest concerns is shortage of labor, Hurst said, but that also comes down to wage. One of his goals on council is to encourage businesses to provide a better, livable, wage for their employees.

How would you propose increasing revenue for the City of Lynnwood?

Jim Smith (position 4): Smith believes reducing city spending would increase revenue for the city.

Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby (position 5): Dr. Altamirano-Crosby noted that Lynnwood has one of the highest taxes in the state. She doesn’t believe the city needs to do anything to raise revenue, she believes the city needs to focus on managing the revenue effectively that it currently has coming in

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from page 4 **LYNNWOOD CANDIDATES**

first.

Robert Leutwyler (position 5): Leutwyler wants to focus on growing small, local, businesses in Lynnwood.

Derek Hanusch (position 7): Hanusch believes that Lynnwood should explore different areas of revenue generation other than retail, which he says is not sustainable.

David Parshall (position 7): One thing he would not like to do is increase sales tax because that would impact people's decision to visit Lynnwood to shop. What he does think the city could do is promote Lynnwood as a shopping destination to take advantage of its retail opportunities.

George Hurst (position 6): With a large portion of Lynnwood's revenue coming from retail and luxury auto dealers, Hurst wishes to ensure the Alderwood mall remains vibrant and inviting by making it a place to go rather than just a place to shop. He added that the council needs to focus on its expenditures first before focusing on bringing in more revenue.

What do you think is the most important infrastructure project needed in Lynnwood right now?

Jim Smith (position 4): Smith believes we should focus on improving our roads, which he said are an important safety concern. This includes repaving and adding sidewalks to increase pedestrian access.

Nick Coelho (position 4): Coelho feels the city needs a robust downtown core, which can act as a sort of "front yard" for apartment dwellers, and social gathering space.

Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby (position 5): Dr. Altamirano-Crosby believes there are many infrastructure projects that need attention in Lynnwood. She's grateful 196th just recently opened but shared that the Poplar Way Bridge and the Wastewater Treatment Plant are the most important projects currently.

Robert Leutwyler (position 5): Leutwyler believes the city center is huge for economic development. He believes that, with the right city council members in position, the city can really capitalize on the light rail coming in but should focus on building out its transit network.

Derek Hanusch (position 7): Hanusch believes in building more housing, and sober living houses to support those suffering with substance abuse.

David Parshall (position 7): Although excited for light rail, Parshall is concerned how the influx in population is going to increase traffic. To prepare accordingly he said he believes road improvements are the most important to keep maintenance and efficiency to keep congestion down.

George Hurst (position 6): Without hesitation, Hurst said the most important infrastructure project is the Wastewater Treatment Plant. That and supporting the area around the upcoming light rail station – a project which he clarified is Sound Transit's and not the

city of Lynnwood.

If there's ever a budget shortfall or a recession, what recommendations would you present on how to mitigate the shortfall?

Jim Smith (position 4): Smith believes there could be some cuts but wishes to figure out a way to spend less while offering more services.

Nick Coelho (position 4): The major thing, Coelho said, is setting council's priorities straight. Infrastructure, parks and public spaces, and public safety should be prioritized. He believes the city can do low cost things to increase

Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby (position 5): Dr. Altamirano-Crosby believes we are already passed due for a recession. She believes putting money aside for emergencies is key, using the example of COVID and the city's response to how it affected the community.

Robert Leutwyler (position 5): Leutwyler believes in keeping reserve funds to be prepared for an economic downturn and look at discretionary spending to pause or postpone projects to reduce costs.

Derek Hanusch (position 7): Hanusch believes in putting funds into a reserve fund that could be used for a financial crisis.

David Parshall (position 7): Parshall's number one recommendation is to ensure that essential services keep flowing.

George Hurst (position 6): Hurst used the example of COVID as being an example of having to make cuts. Police and roads are the priorities when making cuts, he said, but if there is another major recession it's important to have a "rainy day fund" – which the council already has in place for a couple months buffer.

Regarding public safety, what do you think the city is doing right and where might there be opportunity for improvement?

Jim Smith (position 4): Smith believes there needs to be an adequate number of police. "If we don't have public safety in Lynnwood nothing else matters," Smith said. "Beautiful parks would not matter unless people feel safe entering those parks."

Nick Coelho (position 4): The important part is ensuring our law enforcement is fully staffed, Coelho said. Road safety and preventative maintenance is also key.

Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby (position 5): What the city is doing right, Dr. Altamirano-Crosby said, is that the city is proactive on public safety. She added that every single resource they have they use. She says engagement is key, but it is already in place adding that the city recently passed an ordinance to regulate public drug use.

Robert Leutwyler (position 5): Leutwyler praised the Lynnwood Police Department for its strong sense of community. Where he thinks the city is lacking is not investing enough in mental health and housing solutions, which he believes is setting up the police de-

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partment up for failure.

Derek Hanusch (position 7): Hanusch praised the Lynnwood Police Department and mentioned he has participated in their Citizen's Academy three times. He said an opportunity is fostering more community engagement.

David Parshall (position 7): One of the things Parshall is concerned about is that it's a tough time to hire first responders. He wants to ensure that Lynnwood stays competitive to ensure the Lynnwood PD is hiring the best officers they can. He thinks engagement events are a great way to build trust with community members.

George Hurst (position 6): What the city is doing right is rebuilding staffing in the police department, Hurst said. He would like to see more mental health professionals working in conjunction with the police.

Lynnwood is home many parks and trails. What would you propose to improve the City's green spaces?

Jim Smith (position 4): Smith is proud of the number of green spaces the city of Lynnwood has but wishes to preserve them. He would like to see the development of Rowe Park come to completion and have Gold Park cleaned up from public drug use and homelessness.

Nick Coelho (position 4): Coelho would ask the people to start taking part, such as getting groups together to weed out invasive species from parks. He would love to create a community-led program to get involved so they feel they are a part of the park's pres-

ervation.

Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby (position 5): Dr. Altamirano-Crosby commended the Parks and Recreation Department noting that they are recognized nation-wide. She noted that improvement to parks and green spaces starts with understanding the City's needs. An area with a highly Asian community, for example, may differ than a predominately Latino community so it's understanding the area and what its people's needs are.

Robert Leutwyler (position 5): Leutwyler would want to focus on a climate action plan for the city to lay out what the city could do to promote green space while reducing climate change. He cycled back to road safety, mentioning that trees can also be used as a natural barrier to slow traffic down and create a natural barrier to reduce collisions.

Derek Hanusch (position 7): Hanusch has visited many of Lynnwood's parks. He loves the remodel of South Lynnwood Park and loves to take his grandparents to parks. He would like to clean up Lynnwood's parks from homeless individuals.

David Parshall (position 7): Parshall would love to see amenities added to city parks, which he believes would reduce crime. By bringing in activities, such as disc golf courses, he believes it brings more people with a vested interest in the parks.

George Hurst (position 6): Hurst believes that the city should be able to

Candidate interviews for Superior Court Position 17

By **GEORGE FTIKAS, JR.**



LYNNWOOD—The Lynnwood Times’s publisher Mario Lotmore sat down with the candidates for Snohomish County Superior Court Position 17 in the upcoming general elections on November 7. The candidates were asked the same set of 12 questions aside from the last question on behalf of their opponent. Some of the answers to the questions asked are partial quotes and were shortened for brevity.

BIOGRAPHIES OF EACH SUPERIOR COURT CANDIDATE

Judge Patrick Moriarty was selected to fill a position on the Snohomish County Superior Court bench in June 2022 following the governor’s rigorous screening and appointment process.

Judge Moriarty has a record of more than 30 years of public service, with broad legal expertise as a public defender, prosecutor, private attorney, superior court commissioner, and now a judge.

Except for just two years in the 1990s, his law practice was focused in Sno-

homish County where he handled matters of criminal defense, juvenile representation, dependencies, drug court, personal injury, and many of the other legal issues that now come before him as a superior court judge.

For 17 years while practicing law, Judge Moriarty served regularly as a judge pro tem in the courts of Snohomish County followed by 4 years as a superior court commissioner where he presided over thousands of complex and important matters involving families and children. He is now the incumbent judge in this election.

To learn more, visit <https://judgepatrickmoriarty.org/>

Mary is a first-generation college graduate. She grew up in Everett, Washington, and has been in the community for over 40 years. Mary is a pro tem judge in Snohomish County and has presided over 1700 cases, including criminal and civil matters.

Mary has over 25 years of business experience. Law is her third career. She owned and operated a construction company, a mortgage brokerage company, and a law firm. After graduating from law school, she opened Guidance to Justice Law Firm, where she is a tri-

al attorney and helps people know their rights, understand their rights, and invoke their rights.

She practices in real estate, civil rights, and personal injury. She is the only candidate who has successfully argued before our state Supreme Court and has federal court and appellate experience.

She enjoys giving back to her community by volunteering at the Snohomish County Legal Clinic.

Mary has earned endorsements from the Snohomish County Democrat and Republican parties, three State Supreme Court Justices, and many others. She is family-driven and has been married for nearly 30 years where she and her husband are proud parents of a United States Navy Veteran.

To learn more, visit <https://www.elect-maryanderson.com/>

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

The responses below have been summarized by the Lynnwood Times, so check out the videos above to hear the Superior Court candidates responses in their own words as well as their closing remarks. The Superior Court interviews were conducted at the beautiful Lynndale Park located in South Snohomish County on September 30, 2023.

What are your top three priorities if elected to office?

Patrick Moriarty: I’m currently sitting in juvenile court. I started there in March and it is an 18 month rotation, so I’m focused right at the matters that come before the court in juvenile court. Those are two different types of cases. There’s dependency and termination cases, which deal with parental rights, and then there’s offender matters, which are juvenile offender criminal matters.

Mary Anderson: My top priorities are really simple. I don’t want the same old, same old. I want to bring a different, new perspective to the judiciary and my whole goal is to bring transparency, integrity, and fairness for all.

What techniques do you use to maintain order in the courtroom?

Patrick Moriarty: The main technique that I use is respect. What I mean by that is, if you respect the parties that are there, both the attorneys and the litigants, usually you get respect in return.

So I don’t think it is appropriate to shout at people. I try to keep my voice down. I try to speak to them. ...I’ve had very few circumstances where somebody has gotten to the point where they are unable to maintain their composure. And if that happens, I’ll usually take a break. Say, “We’re going to take a recess. I want you to regain your composure.” I’ll give them a few minutes, come back out. Sometimes I’ll say, “Why don’t you have a seat, we’ll come back to you in a moment’ and we’ll handle another matter while we wait.”

Mary Anderson: As a judge pro tem... I would just take a moment to reflect and ask them kindly, “Please, sir or madam, direct the court and not your opponent.’ And once I do that, they seem to actually calm down and only speak to me. Because, remember, this is like a traumatic experience for some individuals, so we want to make sure that, as a judge, the litigants that come before me are comfortable — they understand what is going on.

What considerations would you give to self-represented litigants in court?

Patrick Moriarty: Judges are not supposed to treat litigants any differently, whether they’re represented or not. In other words, we cannot advise self-rep-

Continued **PAGE 07 >>**

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from page 6 **SUPERIOR COURT CANDIDATES**

resented litigants. I do give them some leeway with regard to, say, timelines and things of that nature. And mainly, that's because people don't know. These are complex procedures.

Mary Anderson: I, as a judicial officer, will always uphold the law and the Constitution. So if in fact someone was going to self-incriminate themselves, it is my job and duty, as your next judge, to make sure we stop that person. Say, "Hey, you know what, that's probably not an appropriate question for you to answer because you may be giving up your 5th Amendment right."

What specific actions would you take to ensure that the guidelines of an individual appointed by the court to represent the best interests of a child or incapacitated person are followed until a case is settled?

Patrick Moriarty: We deal with guardians ad litem and attorney guardians ad litem... they get training which tells them what they're supposed to do and how they're supposed to investigate the case. When we appoint them, we generally give them the parameters of what we need... The overall investigation is what is in the child's best interest... They give us what they've found and we make the decision, as far as what's in that report, what we think is the most appropriate way to deal with the case.

Mary Anderson: I would just make sure that we are following the rules and regulations that are put on appointed guardians ad litem. We, as a judiciary, have an obligation to protect and support children's rights as well. So it will be my job and duty to ensure that this individual that is in fact appointed, is following the rules and law and applying them fairly and equally without a biased lens.

What strategies do you use to remain impartial while presiding over a case?

Patrick Moriarty: I always try to remember what we instruct jurors to do. ...It's extremely important for any litigant — whether it's a civil case or it's a criminal case — that they have a fair and impartial jury. And that means that there is no bias — either implicit or outright bias by the person who is going to act as a juror — and that they are going to fairly hear the matter for the party.

For instance, perhaps a person who has been the victim of a sexual assault should not be on a sexual assault case... Not every case is the right case for every juror. As judges, we don't necessarily have that luxury, so we have to recognize it within ourselves... Everybody deserves a fair shake and I think it is important that every judge recognizes that and never lets their emotions overcome what is supposed to be their job.

Mary Anderson: Everyone has a bias. If someone tells you they don't have a bias, they're not being truthful. Everyone has a bias, but what I do to make sure I check my biases is I think through the issue and I ask myself the question, "Why am I ruling this way?" And if I rule this way, "Would I rule this way if someone else was in front of me? Would I rule this way if this person was in front of me?" So I make sure I make a conscious decision to always make sure that I'm not ruling based on

my own personal feelings and my biases — because that is what the judiciary requires of me.

My promise to the Snohomish voters is: I will always uphold the law and the Constitution without a biased lens, because that is my duty and my job. And remember, judges serve the people, not the other way around.

How do you handle cases involving sensitive topics such as race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion?

Patrick Moriarty: I think those are things you have to, number one, confront head-on... so I think you need to be able to recognize if you do have a bias that might be coming through and be able to address it.

Mary Anderson: We, as a judge, have an obligation and a duty to always treat people equally and it doesn't matter who they are, where they come from, their sexuality — it just doesn't matter. We are to treat them equally under the law.

What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?

Patrick Moriarty: I guess that depends on what activism you mean. I think we should promote the courts and access to the courts. I think it's really important that everybody knows that they are entitled to be able to get matters heard if they have a grievance and get before the court in order to do that...

Activism as far as changing laws? That's not a judge's job. We can testify in front of the legislature to what we see in our courts, but it's up to the legislature to make the laws. Our oath is that we support the Constitution and the laws of the United States and the State of Washington. And that is the oath that I take very seriously.

Mary Anderson: There is no room for any judicial activism. We are to follow the law and uphold our canons. And if you're not doing that, this may not be a position for you. But my promise to the Snohomish County voters is: I will not be a judicial activist. I will follow the law and treat everyone with respect and dignity and to ensure I don't rule on something with a biased lens. That's my promise to you.

What standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?

Patrick Moriarty: I don't do it. It's just not something you can do. If you're with a family member, they can buy you a drink, but other than that, from other people you just don't do it... It's important because you have to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. That's what we're bound to do under the code of judicial conduct. And if people are giving you gifts, if people are buying you things, you are violating that appearance. Even if, in your mind, it means nothing.

Mary Anderson: I would not accept gifts. In fact, while I'm out campaigning and I'm meeting with folks, I make sure that I pay for my own coffee, lunch, whatever it may be because I just don't want that look to say, "Hey, Mary is being bought off by XY&Z." It's not okay, because, remember, the judiciary is independent.

What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you?

Patrick Moriarty: It's important that you certainly don't hear a matter in which a former client was involved... Other times, I will let the parties know that I might know somebody. You know, if I have a friend who is a lawyer, I'll let the parties know that this is a person that I know — we're friends. If anybody feels that they don't believe I can give them a fair hearing, they can let me know and I will recuse myself under those circumstances. But, we're not required to under those as long as we disclose and the parties are in agreement, it's fine.

Mary Anderson: If in fact, I believe that I cannot be honest with myself and the person that comes before me — that I would actually tip the scales of justice — it is my duty and obligation to recuse myself. Period. No ifs, ands, or buts. No one should be above the law and get favored just because they know a judge.

Describe a time when you had to make a difficult decision as a judge.

Patrick Moriarty: Some of the most difficult cases we face are child custody matters and those are cases that are heard by the judge. We decide what the facts of the case are and we also decide what, ultimately, is going to happen in the case.

...We, many times, have cases where you have parents who get along fine — fifty-fifty parenting plan — where they each have the child half of the time, but one parent gets a new job in another state. They want to move and they want to take the child with them and the other parent is objecting. Those are extremely difficult, because, number one, you know more often than not, there is going to be animosity between the parties just because of what's going to happen where there wasn't before. And that can have a huge impact on the child as well. So, again, you have to look at the statutory factors to determine whether or not the party has proven their case and then you have to act in the best interest of the child to make sure they are protected.

Mary Anderson: The one that comes to mind would be a sexual assault case that I presided over. It had to do with this individual who claimed that the grandma was sexually abusing this child. The issue that came before my court was whether or not we would prohibit the grandma from providing and seeing this young child.

The reason why I was saying this was difficult for me was because I can't fathom a grandma or someone else not being kind to their granddaughter or grandson. But I will always follow the law, and in this particular case, we — based on the evidence that came before me and based on the testimony — I applied the law and the grandma would not be able to see this child.

Question to Patrick Moriarty on behalf of Mary Anderson: Mary has lived in the Snohomish County community for over 40 years, raised her family, purchased a home, practiced law, and opened businesses here. She believes that judges who serve a community should live in that community. Do you agree with that?

Patrick Moriarty: No, and I don't because I don't live in Snohomish County. I live 500 feet into King County. I live in Woodinville right up the hill from the Costco. I'm 500 feet from the county line, but I've lived there for over 25 years — 27 years at this point. I made the decision to live there because I worked in Snohomish County at the time and my wife worked in King County — she worked in insurance. My sister, who I was very close to, lives in Redmond and that was a spot where it was between my work, my wife's work, and my family. So we settled there and I like it there.

But I have served Snohomish County and that's where the distinction lies. As far as my opponent goes, she hasn't practiced in Snohomish County. Her office has not been in Snohomish County. Her office was in Bothell. If you ask the attorneys who work in our community, they don't know who she is. So it's one thing to live in the county, but I had an office in Snohomish County for over 25 years. I've contributed to the tax base of the community there. I know the people of Snohomish County. I know all of the judges because I was in practice with many of them when I was an attorney. I know the lawyers because they come before me and I practiced with them when I was an attorney.

So apart from the fact that there is no legal requirement that a judge live in the county, I've served Snohomish County. My opponent has not. So the people there know me. They know the job I do. I think I've earned their respect and my opponent is unknown. The fact that she lives there doesn't mean she is going to be a better judge than I am.

Question to Mary Anderson on behalf of Patrick Moriarty: Judges and attorneys who work in our courts regularly are in the best position to assess the competency, knowledge, and experience of judges who are running for election. Judge Moriarty has the endorsement of every judge in Snohomish County and over 200 attorneys who have known and respected his work over the past 30 years. You have no endorsements from any current Snohomish County judges and almost no endorsements from attorneys displayed on your website. Why is it that the legal community is not supporting your effort to replace Judge Moriarty?

Mary Anderson: It's not why the legal community is not supporting my judicial run — I am so proud to say that I am the only candidate in the race that has been endorsed by three state Supreme Court Justices — unlike my opponent. He has none of those endorsements.

So the real question is: why haven't those judges endorsed my candidacy? Some folks don't necessarily like to see new, fresh perspectives. And you see, I bring that new, fresh perspective to the judiciary. I will bring this breath of fresh air. I will open up my court room to allow the community to come in.

So, the real question is: why haven't they endorsed me? Because they want the same old, same old. But my ask to the Snohomish County voter is that you vote Mary Anderson for judge, the people's voice, because everyone deserves a judge that is balanced, experienced, fair, and for its people. And I am that judge.

from page 4 **LYNNWOOD CANDIDATES**

increase green spaces, which is why the city has a park impact fee. The city recently purchased the parcel, where Goodwill is currently, for the soul purpose of building a new park. He commended the Parks Department for its ability to secure grants that went towards buying new land to build more parks.

Where are your favorite places to spend

in Lynnwood and why?

Jim Smith (position 4): Smith loves to take his new puppy to the parks around the city. The parks in general, he said, are just wonderful because of their immense beauty.

Nick Coelho (position 4): Coelho's favorite place in Lynnwood right now is Alderwood Mall. It's the one place in the city where he feels pedestrians are prioritized. It's the city's downtown area without having one, he said.

Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby (position 5): South Lynnwood Park is Dr. Altamirano-Crosby's favorite place in Lynnwood. She loves the recent improvements, including the addition of the mural.

Robert Leutwyler (position 5): Leutwyler loves where he lives in the Meadowdale area. He loves how many parks and trails he can easily access.

Derek Hanusch (position 7): Hanusch's

favorite place in Lynnwood is Scriber Park. He enjoys walking through the park and "philosophizing."

David Parshall (position 7): Parshall loves walking the Interurban Trail and doing water sports on Martha Lake.

George Hurst (position 6): Hurst's favorite place in Lynnwood currently is Dave and Buster's at Alderwood. He believes it is a great place to take the family, hold an event, and ultimately have fun.

from page 2 **LYNNWOOD FOOD BANK**

While the region's different food banks are in desperate need of volunteers in all areas, Davis emphasized a need for drivers and those with computer expertise above all else. Volunteers ranged in age all the way to 90. They can begin as young as eight years old, accompanied by an adult, until the 8th grade, when they can volunteer on their own.

Terry, a seven-year volunteer at the Edmonds Food Bank, began driving trucks as a volunteer right after he retired from the seafood business. He works about 17-20 hours a week, driving down to Northwest Harvest in Auburn to pick up food then back to the distribution site in Smokey Point. He told the Lynnwood Times his favorite part about volunteering is the friends he's met and encourages anyone to give volunteering a try because: "what do you got to lose?"

Another longtime volunteer, Melissa Bryan, has been volunteering at the Lynnwood Food Bank for three years. She first got involved with the food bank while volunteering at Homage when the pandemic first shut everything down and heard about the need for volunteers at her local food bank. She informed the Lynnwood Times her favorite part about volunteering is the

people she works with and the relationships she's made.

"People who choose to volunteer, and volunteer with friends, will volunteer for a lifetime," said Davis.

Davis added that many volunteers form bonds and friendships with their fellow volunteers, going on to form book clubs, grabbing lunch, or at the very least have a safe space where they can go while adding value to the community.

"Every food bank is down in volunteers, I think every nonprofit is down in volunteers, which has been a trend since COVID," said Gabrielle Catton, Volunteer Coordinator. "The volunteers haven't bounced back. We are using less volunteers than we were in 2019."

Edmonds Food Bank serves around 800 households a week and sometimes, during peak hours, up to 90 volunteers work at one time to meet demand. Lynnwood Food Bank and Edmonds Food Bank collectively served 30% of Snohomish County over the last five years.

"There is a cliff that people are headed toward with food insecurity – it's not a gradual slide, it's a cliff. One major thing can happen in someone's life, and they can go from being food secure to

food insecure. Covid happened, job losses happened, this economy happened where salaries are low but everything else is rising above it," said Davis. "Volunteering, in some ways, is very much a privilege. If you have to get a second job you don't have time to volunteer, or if you're a senior you can no longer volunteer if you need a job because your social security can't keep up with your income."

As it stands, one in five Washingtonians rely on their local food bank to put food on the table.

Up north Arlington community food bank is also having similar challenges, Executive Director Carla Rankin informed the Lynnwood Times. During the pandemic, she explained, many people were making donations while being supported by federal and state programs. After the pandemic, however, much of that assistance halted. Currently the Arlington food bank is serving triple the households it was during the pandemic.

Nicole King, Senior Manager of Innovation Programs for Northwest Harvest, informed the Lynnwood Times she witnessed a 70-80% decrease in volunteers, from pre-Covid until now, yet an increase in food insecure individuals.

"It's so important to have volunteers, not only for community building and meeting your neighbor, but thinking about access. Can we be open more hours, can we serve more people, can we offer more programs to meet people where they're at. These literally cannot happen without volunteers," said King.

In attendance at Saturday's event was Lynnwood City Council Vice President Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby. Before the bulk food packing event began, she took the floor to remind everyone the Lynnwood Food Bank will be hosting an upcoming charity event on October 15 called Food is Love, at Fogo de Chao near Lynnwood's Alderwood shopping area. The event will include food, live music, and entertainment at \$100 a ticket. Proceeds from ticket sales will go toward bolstering the food bank's need for resources to better serve its community.

Sign up to volunteer at your local food bank to support the "Back to Action" campaign at <https://backtoaction.team/>. To volunteer at the Lynnwood Food Bank, call 425-745-1635 or email lynnwoodfoodbank@comcast.net.

To volunteer at the Edmonds Food Bank, call 425-778-5833 or email info@edmondsfoodbank.org.

from page 1 **LYNNWOOD PFD**

actions."

Leading up into the rally Dong sent an email to Matt Hendricks, PFD's attorney, on June 13, asking if she could attend to show her support "both as an Asian woman as well as the PFD board member to support our key tenant."

She received a response from Janet Pope that same day stating "you are certainly allowed to attend and have your own free speech, just not representing the PFD."

According to Lynnwood Public Facilities District By-laws, Article 10, Section 1, which deal with Board Director Conduct: "any director has the right to express personal views and opinions pursuant to Constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech, statements purporting to represent the view or pronouncements of the Board or the Public Facilities District or committees thereof shall not be made in advance of the Board's final determination of the matter, except as directed or authorized by a majority of the entire Board at any special or regular meeting or public hearing."

Never in Dong's social media posts did she claim to be speaking on behalf of the Board, nor as a Board representative. Pope herself was also in attendance at the June 17 rally.

Sessions and Sutton believed the best remedy was for neither party to be on the board, with Sutton saying it is the same as "trying to put a bandaid over something that is not going to work anymore."

"We need this to stop and if we voted both of them, there's going to be more distractions," Sessions said. "More distractions away from the PFD. More distractions away from the city. More mudslinging. I hope that's not true. I hope that if they both get appointed, that somehow everybody is able to come together, but I think there's just a lot of water under that bridge now."

Altamirano-Crosby cited the overwhelming toxicity as her reason for abstaining.

The council also unanimously passed an amended ordinance to update the city's zoning code regarding essential public facilities and their permitting process.

Dong's efforts earlier this year brought attention to Acadia Healthcare opening an opioid treatment facility next to the Alderwood Boys & Girls Club.

This change to the Lynnwood Municipal Code (LMC) addresses recent updates to state law, but also gives the mayor, the council and the public earlier notice on applications for essential public facilities.

"One of the reasons we did this was to be able to frontload an application earlier in the process to make sure that information can be provided to the community before any public hearing and before public comment was due," Community Planning Manager Karl Almgren said. "We really wanted to make sure that as much information on new applications for essential public facilities can be brought forward for the public input."

The ordinance has little impact on how the facilities are run. According to Almgren, most essential public facilities are licensed and regulated by other agencies: airports by the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA), mental health facilities by the Department of Health, and regional transit authority facilities by Sound Transit — to name a few.

Back in April, the city council placed a moratorium on the acceptance and processing of applications for substance abuse outpatient facilities after being blindsided by the approval of Acadia Healthcare's Lynnwood Comprehensive Treatment Facility. The facility's proximity to the Alderwood Boys & Girls Club sparked outrage, prompting the council to pass an emergency ordinance. This emergency ordinance was set to expire on October 17.

As originally drafted, the new ordinance had no requirement to inform the mayor's office and city council of applications, prompting Hurst to ask if

there was a need to codify informing city leadership.

"Staff approached that as a standard operating procedure, so that any application that will require a public hearing, a notification goes to the mayor's office and the city council," Almgren said.

However, Decker stated concerns that standard operating procedures can be changed without notice.

"Our standard operating procedures are under the direction of the mayor and our intent and direction from the mayor has been, 'no surprises,'" Almgren said in reply to Decker.

"I certainly understand that and I appreciate the mayor's direction and leadership on that point. In 10 years, we may not have this mayor. There may be another mayor who has alternative approaches and that would mean that we would have no visibility," Decker said. "So I would prefer that the intent that council be provided proper visibility were written into the ordinance rather than it just being standard operating procedure that could be changed without, again, notification or visibility of the council."

After further discussion, Hurst moved to amend the ordinance to add this as a requirement, which passed unanimously.