

*ELECT*

**Dan Knapik**

***MAYOR OF WESTFIELD***

For Immediate Release  
September 17, 2009

Contact: Daniel M. Knapik  
(413) 562-1390  
dknapik@msn.com

**STATEMENT OF CITY COUNCILOR DAN KNAPIK,  
CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF WESTFIELD**

**Town Hall Meetings**

Over the past four weeks, I have participated in three town hall-style meetings, two official candidates debates, and a number of neighborhood coffee hours and have visited over one thousand homes, where I have interacted with citizens across our great City.

I would like to thank each of the candidates for Mayor who have participated in the town hall events with me. Mr. Fortier, Mr. Szafran, and Mr. Thomas appeared at one or more of the Town Hall meetings. I would also like to thank Mr. Thomas Mihalek of TRM Consulting, LLC for serving as Moderator at the events at the Hampton Ponds Association Building, the Westwood Restaurant, and at the Horace Mann Center at Westfield State College. Each of these events has been informative for me and I hope for the citizens who have attended.

At each of these forums, we've debated several issues confronting our City, including economic development strategies, downtown revitalization challenges, school financing, elementary school population shifts and building efforts, the Westfield Gas & Electric ILOT agreement, tax-increment financing, the Columbia Greenway, and most importantly, the City's budget. Each event featured lively conversation among people who care deeply for our City. I thank each of you who attended for your commitment to our City.

As Mayor, I would work to make these town hall-style meetings a regular occurrence. Whether your concerns are of a neighborhood nature, related to a development or project of importance to the entire City, or as we prepare our City's budget, I will certainly reach out to the public to gather your input.

With effective leadership and a team-first attitude, our City will endure this economic downturn and emerge stronger. We cannot and I will not wait for someone else to solve our problems.

I am Dan Knapik, I am running for Mayor and I'm ready to go to work for you, to prepare our city for the future. I kindly ask for your vote on September 22.