

ELECT

Dan Knapik

MAYOR OF WESTFIELD

For Immediate Release
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STATEMENT OF CITY COUNCILOR DAN KNAPIK, CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF WESTFIELD

My Record – Economic Development

WESTFIELD- As a small business owner, I have been on the front lines of business planning and development for twenty years. As chairman of the city council's legislative and ordinance subcommittee the last six years, I have been the city council's chief negotiator on economic incentive programs that are available for new and expanding existing businesses. The state legislation that gives the city the ability to declare economic opportunity areas is a powerful tool we have used successfully to compete for businesses in a global economy. These agreements have brought over \$94 million in private investment and over 700 jobs since my election in 2001.

Recently the city council ratified the economic opportunity area designation with the Pioneer Valley Energy Center. This project will account for a payment of approximately \$2.5 million dollars per year to the city treasurer over the life of the agreement. Additionally, other city fees generated from the PVEC will add almost an additional \$700,000 to various departments. The PVEC will also assume the cost of construction of an additional gas line that will enhance natural gas service to the north side. The value of the gas line construction is estimated to be \$6 million. Additionally, we will be entering into an agreement with the PVEC that will provide an annual payment of \$50,000 that will be dispersed to youth and senior citizen organizations and service groups.

Building upon this success and my own business experience, upon my election, I will immediately reactivate the long-dormant Industrial Development Commission and tap key business leaders to staff this commission. Together, we will map out a strategy to attract cutting-edge businesses with good paying jobs to our great city. I am committed to making Westfield a premier location and regional leader in attracting environmentally-friendly businesses. I have worked in the Agawam Industrial Park for ten years, which is home to over 30 environmentally-friendly businesses that employ over 2000 people. As Mayor, the Chief Economic Development official for Westfield, I will work to develop a similar industrial park in this city.

With effective leadership, our City will endure this economic downturn and emerge stronger. We cannot and will not wait for someone else to solve our problems. We must rely on ourselves- our schools, our families, our business community, and our resolve- **TO WORK TOWARD A BETTER WESTFIELD.**

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.

****PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 22nd!****