

ELECT

Dan Knapik

MAYOR OF WESTFIELD

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

My Record – Public Safety

WESTFIELD- Public safety has always been a top priority of mine on the city council. I have worked to ensure that our police and fire departments have had the funding to purchase state of the art equipment and receive high quality training in order to provide the citizens of Westfield the highest level of service.

Police

Early in my first term, I was invited to attend the Westfield Police Department's Citizens Police Academy. Our instructors, Sgt. LaCroix, and Officers Bard and Swords provided me with an insight into the operations of the police department that has served me well as a city council member. Shortly after graduation, I was invited on a ride along. I spent the night shift on patrol with John Blascak. This experience showed me a side of Westfield that not many citizens are aware exists.

Using this first-hand knowledge, and my position as the chairman of the city council's legislative and ordinance sub-committee, I have worked directly with Chief John Camerota and the community police unit led by Sgt. Dickinson for the last six years making Westfield a safer community. Working together, we developed or revised a significant number of ordinances and zoning codes to give the police the tools they needed to tackle crime and quality of life issues confronting our citizens. Recently, Captain McCabe made a presentation to the city council during the budget hearings. The reduction in crime in our city over the last fourteen years is impressive since the community police unit was started. As mayor, I will continue my support of the police department.

Fire

One of the first votes I took as a new member of the city council was a finance appropriation to purchase the fire department hovercraft. The fire commission and the fire chief at the time, Frank O'Brien, provided to the city council a request for funding and justification. I remember engaging my fellow members in a spirited floor debate in support of the measure because I felt that our firefighters and citizens would benefit from that acquisition. Money, like today, was tight then and some thought we couldn't afford it, fortunately the appropriation passed, and the hovercraft was purchased. This apparatus has been deployed numerous times since that vote in life saving situations. And every time I read about the ambulances that perform daily life saving missions, that are equipped with the best technology in the business, I feel proud that our city has invested in this equipment and more importantly our men and women that operate it, and that I had a role in that. But most importantly, I know personally, more than a few friends who are here today because of the dedicated men and woman of our fire department. As mayor I will continue my support of the fire department.

I am Dan Knapik, I have always made public safety a top priority and will continue to do so as your mayor. I'm ready to go to work for you.

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