

## Westfield Evening News Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Daniel Knapik  
**Address:** 43 East Silver Street

**Phone & Contact information:**

Home: 562-1390                      Work: 789-3530                      Cell: 237-3500

**Email:** [dnapik@msn.com](mailto:dnapik@msn.com)

Family Information: Married to Tricia (Russo), two children, Thomas age 3 and John age 19 months.

**Parents:** Joseph and Alice Knapik

**Candidate for office of:** Mayor

**Education:**

Westfield Public Schools k-12  
Bachelor of Arts, Fairfield University, 1989

**Employment/Profession:**

Environmental, Safety and Health Consultant since 1987  
Present employer: Environmental Compliance Services, Inc.  
Position: Principal

**Government Service/Organizations:**

- ✓ City Council member 2002-2009 representing Ward 2.
- ✓ National Environmental Health and Safety Training Association
- ✓ National Fire Protection Association
- ✓ National Safety Council
- ✓ Safety Council of Western New England
- ✓ Corporator, Westfield Athenaeum
- ✓ Corporator, Amelia Park Children's Museum
- ✓ Slovak Citizens Club
- ✓ St. Stephen's Society
- ✓ Sons of Erin
- ✓ WESTFIELD LODGE OF ELKS **BPOE 1481**
- ✓ Founding member Downtown Performing Arts Committee
- ✓ Former member of Westfield Red Cross Disaster Response Team

## **List up to 3 major issues of Candidate's platform:**

### **1. Truth in Budgeting**

The budget is the document through which a City sets forth its priorities. It is the responsibility of the Mayor to create this document and to sell it as part of a vision for our City. Over the past two years, our City's vision has been blurred. Like all cities and towns across our state, we are facing challenging times financially. As Mayor, I promise that I will take complete responsibility for presenting a **BALANCED** and **RESPONSIBLE** budget during my term. I will **NOT HESITATE** to make **DIFFICULT** and **INFORMED** decisions. I will work **PROACTIVELY** to ensure that our citizens' **TAX DOLLARS** are invested in the most **BASIC** and **ESSENTIAL** city services- public safety, education, roadway maintenance, and neighborhood services.

Further, I will work **DAILY**, with citizens, city employees, union leadership, department heads, and elected officials to **ENSURE** that these city services are being provided **EFFICIENTLY** and **EFFECTIVELY**. Those who I have worked with in my time on the City Council know that I speak **PLAINLY** and **OPENLY** on all matters. I have never accepted the excuse and you shouldn't either, that something cannot be done because there is no money.

### **2. Communication**

One of the primary reasons I was prompted to seek the Mayor's office was because too many decisions were being made without input from city stakeholders. Particularly at this time in our City's history, with limited resources, we must engage city residents in the decision-making process. For that reason, I offer a five-point communication plan through which I will work to better engage Westfield residents in our City's decision-making process. My plan includes:

- **“Bringing Your City Government to You” with regularly-scheduled public forums in each of the City's six wards.**
- **Re-institution of an “open door” in the Mayor's office**
- **Expanding the City's internet presence to include social networking and an interactive blog.**
- **Publishing a monthly newsletter/column called “Message from the Mayor”**
- **Hosting a monthly Channel 15 show and advocating for replay of taped city meetings.**

### **3. Economic Development**

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 over the last six years.

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.**

#### **Statement of Candidacy:**

My name is Dan Knapik and I am a candidate for Mayor of the City of Westfield. I am taking on this challenge because I want to make our government responsive to its citizens and position this city financially, so that we can **BOLDLY** move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I will work to ready our schools for the next generation, provide sound fiscal and personnel management, provide proactive leadership in attracting economic growth and jobs to our City, and I will work every day to make our neighborhoods vibrant, our citizens better engaged, informed, and proud of our hometown.