



## 2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION ALL-CANDIDATES FORUM

# WARD COUNCILLOR RESPONSES

## CAROL RICCIUTO – WARD 2

**Question:** *In addition to the watermain reconstruction downtown and Downtown Reimagined, what other infrastructure projects need to be addressed over the next four years?*

**Answer:** (1) The need for an indoor pool made to be affordable and accessible to all persons in Grimsby. (2) Improvement/repair to the waterfront, waterfront trails and accesses. (3) How most of our businesses, especially grocery stores, were built in the west end of Grimsby, making accessibility for those in the east end out of reach except by vehicle. (4) more bike and walking access routes (5) proper snow plowing up on the escarpment and town streets. (6) Climate change and environmental threats.



**Question:** *The toxic environment and lack of decorum at council meetings over the last four years is well-documented, and reflects the disturbingly disrespectful discord in politics at all levels right now. How would you, as a member of the next council, contribute to a more respectful and collaborative environment within council chambers and dealing with staff, to focus on making Grimsby a better place for residents, the business community, and visitors?*



**Answer:** I would lean heavily on the teachings and help from the staff to learn about the protocols that should be followed, they have a lot of knowledge to share. I believe firmly in "A council person is a representative of all of the people, not a champion of a special interest group or a narrow perspective." I've been involved with people thru working with terminally ill patients, in the service industry, at LTC facilities and as a Wildlife Rehabilitator. To be a good listener, considerate and fair.



**Question:** *What will you do to encourage the growth of the industrial and commercial tax base and control the rise in residential taxes?*

**Answer:** In all honesty, I do not know. This is not my forte and once again I would have to learn more about the structures of this and rely on those who are in the know to inform me and hopefully teach me.



**Question:** *How do you plan to address the important issues and social justice initiatives of our time? The housing crisis, gender equity, Indigenous Reconciliation, 2SLGBTQ+ rights and safety, to name just a few.*

**Answer:** I would encourage open conversation, teachings to enlighten those who fear what they don't understand. I would be available for towns people to voice their concerns and hopefully be of some assistance. I will not tolerate acts of racism. I would like to see seminars held within schools and community groups that give open understanding to things people undergo when they are so-called 'different'. Bullying and safety should be two topics that are never ignored. Knowledge is a great peacekeeper.



**Question:** *Intensification is inevitable. Increased density is needed, especially along Main Street, to support the hospital and the GO train. How will you balance the need for intensification with preserving Grimsby's strong heritage?*

**Answer:** This is a conundrum. To increase density along Main St, structures would have to come down and more cramped condos would go in. Parking would be required and with all this comes the destruction of the points of heritage of our town. Again, I would consult the staff for historical data and alternate routes. I would really like to keep our heritage intact and make it a draw for tourists through improvements (if required) and touting our history. We are, after all, the Gateway to Niagara.



**Question:** *Economic Development is an investment, not an expense. Grimsby is finally catching up with our neighbours by hiring an Economic Development Officer. Do you support the Economic Development Strategy and its implementation? Will you invest in Grimsby's future to attract and retain jobs?*

**Answer:** Economic Development CAN be an expense as was apparent when the G5 voted for hiring an EDO that created a tax increase - at a time when people and businesses were suffering from the pandemic and could not afford to put out anything more. I definitely want to see Grimsby create jobs but for those in the town. Attracting new business that create jobs is good. A company that moves its employees to our location is of no benefit to our job market.

