

Community Before Cops
Seaside - Mayor
Joseph Smith

I believe that community should always come first, and we can all grow better together as a whole. I have attempted to answer your questions to the best of my ability, but please reach out if you'd like further clarification on the issues.

1. What are your 3 main priorities in your city? My 3 main priorities are Affordable housing in the area, and a percentage of all development having new affordable homes for people that make less than 75k a year. Economic recovery is second for me, due to the fact that people are hurting and need to be able to support themselves and their families; I will do that by bringing more higher paying jobs to the area. And lastly I would like to help the Homeless/Mentally Challenged individuals in our area, by providing safe spaces for them to live and begin attempting to recover their lives, and rejoin society.
2. What does public safety mean to you? What policies do you support to create healthy communities? Public Safety should be felt by ALL individuals, and not just certain people that can afford to feel safe. I would like to get back to community policing, and not have a militarized police force "protecting" our city. I would also include better training for our officers and have them learn Brazillian Jiu-jitsu to be better prepared to handle violent/mentally impaired people, so they will be less inclined to shoot, who they are supposed to serve. I would also have more of an emphasis on learning and implementing better "less-lethal" options like Bean-bag shotgun rounds instead of lethal rounds. I would also consider if having more social workers involved in domestic dispute calls, and wherever else that may assist effectively.
3. How do you approach community representation and involvement in local political action? I've lived in Seaside since 1996 and I graduated from Seaside High in 1998 and I've loved it from day one. I've always seen the potential we have to be an inclusive city that is for everyone to prosper, and to try and earn the American dream. My mother is from Costa Rica, so I've seen her come here and make it happen. I will work with my community to ensure that all voices are heard, and that no one gets left behind. We have an enormous Latino community that is under served, and I want to fix that.
4. What experiences have prepared you for this elected position? I was the base Mayor for 45 Iraqi nationals that lived and worked on the base outside of Fallujah, Iraq. I took it upon myself to get immersed in their culture, their food, their music, and way of life. What I learned is that everyone would share with their neighbor, and no one went hungry. I've lived all over the world since I was born in Panama, and I will use my extensive knowledge to make Seaside be as great as possible!
5. According to data, income inequality (which has been proven to correlate to several other social and lifestyle factors, including healthcare and quality of life) in this county is higher than the national average. How will you use your position of power to break this multi-generational pattern (economically, socially, etc)? I will use my position to show the income disparity gap that is blatantly obvious, and will work tirelessly to fix that issue. We have so much land that is being turned over to the city, and I will develop it to have

higher paying jobs that are available quickly, low-income housing for those that can't afford to buy in this market, bring technology jobs to Seaside, and start an academy that can train CA residents to fill those higher paying jobs. I will use my contacts at Google, Microsoft, and Apple to make this happen!

Thank you for your time, I hope I answered your questions well. I humbly ask for your vote in November.

Regards,
Joseph Smith