

## Backgrounds of candidates for Lauderhill commission

March 5, 2006

SEAT 5 CITYWIDE Lauderhill; four-year term; salary about \$23,000 with 6 percent increases each year.

**Richard Kaplan:** 50, married, one son; attorney; commissioner/councilman 1988-1996, mayor 1998-present; member, Florida 2025 Transportation Plan Steering Committee, Broward County Community Shuttle Committee and Inverrary Homeowners Association; Master of laws in taxation, University of Miami; law degree, Cleveland State University; bachelor's degree, University of Michigan. blog: [www.elauderhill.blogspot.com](http://www.elauderhill.blogspot.com)

*What edge do you have over your opponent?*

Local, state, national and international recognition and visibility. More experience, including in conducting an orderly and efficient meeting. Unmatched dedication for the position. Substantial accomplishments ... I take initiative on numerous issues, in addition to the depth of legislation (over 140 pieces) and work product I have produced over the years. Over the years, I have attended far more events than my opponent, including official functions. My ability to communicate with my residents, i.e., emergency e-mail notification system, elauderhill News (blog), welcome letters to new city residents; I won the first ever Mayor of the Year by the Florida League of Cities 2004.

*What are your top priorities if elected, including your long-term vision for the city?*

Complete the construction of the capital improvements as provided in the Great Neighborhoods Bond. Completion of Carishoca, the Central Regional Park, Cultural Arts Facility with library. CRAs on 441 and Central Lauderhill, Housing Board, Unsafe Structures Board and Nuisance Abatement Board implementation. Complete the creation of a monthly series of cultural events, which now include: MLK Day, Valentine Concert, Unite-a-Fest, Blazzfest, July 4 Celebration, Trinidad/Tobago Multi-Cultural Day, Hispanicfest. Implement the Greenway program. Assist Lauderhill schools to achieve A status.

*Where in the city budget would you like to decrease and increase spending, and why?*

The budget is set by the needs of the people. I would of course like to always see a decrease in spending, but that is not the overriding factor in the decision. Budgeting needs to keep in balance with the goals set out, goals such as those related to providing additional city services to the newly annexed areas, i.e., more firefighters/EMS; implementation of capital improvements; and rebuilding of City Hall.

**Tyson Jones:** 66, married, five children, four grandchildren; associate planner for Broward County Parks and Recreation Division for 30 years; Lauderhill city commissioner 1993-2004, vice mayor for two terms; deputy vice mayor three terms; member, NAACP Fort Lauderdale branch, United Lauderhill Homeowners Association, Lauderhill Central Residents Association, Inverrary Homeowners Association; board member, Broward County Community Service Agency; master's degree, University of Miami; bachelor's degree, University of the District of Columbia. No Web site.

*What edge do you have over your opponent?*

I am the only candidate and the only commissioner with 30 years of experience as an urban and regional planner. Lauderhill is in the process of redefining its image. We are undergoing a major revitalization. As a planner, I am excited about being able to provide professional input and guidance to this massive undertaking.

*What are your top priorities if elected, including your long-term vision for the city?*

To move forward with the charette for the State Road 7 corridor and the final presentation of the drafted master plan to the community and the commissioners are a couple of my top priorities. My long-term vision for the city is to develop the McArthur Dairy and the Kmart site. The complementary development will include rezoning and selling the land to developers who will build things like homes, hotels and an international selection of restaurants, retail stores and more.

*Where in the city budget would you like to decrease and increase spending, and why?*

Since housing and economic development are among my top priorities, I would like to increase city funding of those programs that make it possible for people to buy homes in Lauderhill and rehabilitate existing homes. Further, I will increase funding to provide more incentives for business to relocate, locate and expand in our city... I look forward to the day when Lauderhill can decrease its spending on unfunded mandates - projects we must fund because of federal and state law. I believe the long-range planning we are presently doing for our city will allow us to be more proactive and do away with unexpected budget increases.

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