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Eagle & Journal Candidate Questions

Mike Donovan Response

No. 1 – Why did you decide to run for public office and what qualities do you feel you offer the residents of Coronado?

Donovan Response:

I am a 40-year resident of Coronado and have always been interested in local politics. Because of my job requirements, which often dictated frequent travel, as well as naval reserve duties, I did not feel I could allocate the amount of time a city council position would require to do the job right. I was also a busy father raising two children, both educated in Coronado public schools, from kindergarten through high school graduation. Having recently retired, I now have the time necessary to be an effective city council member.

In addition, during the past couple of years, I began to feel that residents were losing the priority we deserve in City Council decisions. My number one priority will be preserving residential quality of life. I want to ensure that residents are fully represented at City Hall on issues such as tourism, new construction, traffic congestion, parking, and our relationship with the Navy. I am not tied to any special interest here in town; my only special interest group will be the residents of Coronado.

I have a deep understanding of the challenges facing our community. Even before I announced my candidacy for City Council, I began regularly attending council meetings, city commission and committee meetings, and San Diego agency meetings that most affect Coronado, including the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), San Diego Port Authority, and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). I have met with numerous residents from the Village, Shores, and Cays, city staff members, and members of city commissions as well as Coronado representatives on other boards. These meetings have been invaluable for clarifying the issues we face.

My professional background includes both Navy and corporate business experience. I recently completed a 33-year career at Solar Turbines Incorporated, a division of Caterpillar Inc., having performed in positions responsible for more than 100 employees and multimillion dollar budgets. My accountabilities included multimillion dollar capital assets and industrial gas turbine development programs spanning periods of up to 6 years. My last two assignments were Director, Product Development, and Director, Corporate Quality and Process Improvement. Throughout my career I have led numerous diverse, multifunctional groups to solve problems, enhance quality, and improve business processes.

I also have had a 30-year Navy career. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy and a year of post graduate school at MIT earning an engineering master's degree, I completed Navy Nuclear Propulsion Training. Following assignments in two nuclear powered cruisers homeported in San Diego and a tour in Washington D.C. as Assistant Ship Design Manager for the DDG(X) (later designated as the DDG 51 class of guided missile destroyers), I transferred to the Naval Reserve. During my 20 years in the reserves I was selected for two Executive Officer and three Commanding Officer tours. After a combined active duty and reserve career spanning 30 years, I retired from the Navy as a Captain (O-6).

In summary, I love Coronado and have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to make my home here. However, I am concerned about where we are headed and want to make a positive impact on the future of our city. My military and business experience, including professional experience in leadership, fiscal management, and collaborative problem-solving, will be invaluable as a city council member. This, combined with my commitment to residents, will help enable me to make a positive contribution to the future of Coronado.