

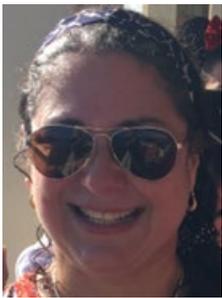
Dear Colonial beach Residents,

Thanks for submitting these questions and for your support during the campaign. I look forward to this debate and for the opportunity to address you now and during the debate. I am running to **put residents first** in government, for a change. If you are not pleased with the way things are going and want to bring a new agenda to town, continue reading and see where we can fix the town. We need Chuck DiNenna and David Williams to be elected too, so we can make Changes. **It is time for Change!**

Looking forward to meeting you in person,

Lisette

### Short Bio



Equipped with a Doctor of Management, a master's degree in health care administration, and a master's certificate in Project/Program Management, I have the necessary knowledge to understand businesses and their management. When to this knowledge you add the over 20 years of experience managing programs, including investments, data, risk, and programming (selection and prioritization of investments which leads to budget formulation), at the largest civilian agency in the country, I have the necessary experience to understand how to improve the Town's budget and management. In addition, I had the opportunity of a White House Fellowship under President Trump, which helped me set forth national policy. Therefore, I am a well-rounded candidate with National level experience that is more than qualified to bring the changes needed to make better

decisions in favor of the Town Residents. What makes me the perfect candidate for change is that I bring the perspectives of a small business owner, a part-time resident, and a full-time resident of Colonial Beach. This gives me many insights and an open mind to understand the different types of residents and community members. **You have my total commitment to putting residents FIRST.** Learn more at [Montalvo4CB.Com](https://Montalvo4CB.Com).

**Website:** [Montalvo4CB.Com](https://Montalvo4CB.Com) **Email-** [contactme@Montalvo4CB.com](mailto:contactme@Montalvo4CB.com) **Phone/Text:** 804-459-8848.

### Answers to the Questions

1A) The one area I will champion during my term: Our Town suffers from absent minded decision-making. Right now, most decisions are made by anecdotes, with information not made available to residents. Many times, they ridicule residents while talking down to them when they disagree with proposals or offer another point of view. Council members remain mostly silent, with some exceptions. To provide an example, the Town hired a lawyer with a salary and benefits of over \$200,000.00.<sup>1</sup> When reviewing the cost of legal services to the Town, the budget reflects a balance of less than \$102,285.00.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, the highest paid employee in Town was hired without considering the impact on the budget, or the town, like the many others hired since 2020, which totaled over \$500,000.00.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, we are losing money left and right as decisions are made without real data. **I will bring a business approach to decisions supported by real transparent data and analysis of options, so the best alternative is selected to benefit the residents.**

1B) Specific Action I intend to take: If elected, I **will aim to ensure that all available information is provided to the residents, take the residents' input into account, and, most importantly, make informed decisions based on real-time data/information.**

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<sup>1,3</sup> Numbers from FOIA submitted to Town on

<sup>2</sup> Number from FY2023 budget- \$102,285 total for FY21 and \$45,814 for six months during FY22.

**2A) Infrastructure assessment: The Town's infrastructure has serious issues.** On the north side, residents complain about possible chemicals and sewer coming out of the sewage treatment plant. Not so long ago, there was a dumping of sewer water into Monroe Bay, enough to fill up five (5) Olympic swimming pools<sup>4</sup>. The roads are patched without correcting the underlying erosion problems causing potholes on the streets that only worsen with time. Sidewalks are in extreme disrepair and stormwater management is nonexistent. The town council continues spending funds on non-urgent projects when the Town's infrastructure needs immediate attention and action.

**2B) Next steps to support existing population and growth: I will champion the Public Works Department to create a list of all known issues, including rainwater runoff.** This will lead to a priority list. The priority list will be used to update the Town's Capital Improvement Plan and then funds will be allocated to begin working on fixing the Town's infrastructure.

**3A) Progress in Town:** There are good and bad things with the Town's progress. On a positive note, the Town saved Castlewood Park, but on the other hand, the South Beach has largely been ignored. Also, having driven on these roads for close to 17 years, I can safely say that road condition has gone down, there is an overall lack of transparency, most recently about the pier, and the residents' sense of safety and security is eroding. The Town's administration is also unresponsive to members of the community. **Therefore, we have made some progress in certain aspects but have gone backward in many others.**

**3B) Development:** A positive example is the development of 9<sup>th</sup> street, which makes a lot of sense. However, the Dodson development, for example, does not make any sense. Dodson is taking government property at a significantly discounted rate while not providing what was agreed upon when they entered into the agreement. The current administration keeps updating the contracts in Dodson's favor for nothing in return, despite Dodson not even having a business license in Town. There is also a lack of transparency. The next phase of the Dodson development will take away 163 parking spaces at the Wilder lot. Parking in Colonial Beach generates a lot of revenue from activities, estimated at \$300,000 last year. **I am in favor of developing this Town to benefit the residents, not the developer, and I do not believe in giving up our important sources of revenue.**

**3C) The decision to become a city should be made by the Town's people via a referendum.** There are arguments for keeping the Town "as is" and to convert to a city. But this decision should be recorded in the Strategic Plan. A multiyear planning and funding document must accompany the plan.

**4.** If elected, the first initiative I will support will be a **line-by-line-item review of the budget** and a review of the positions added since 2020. I know there is a real possibility of lowering expenses, increasing the infrastructure allocation, and perhaps lowering our tax rate.

**5.** Independence of CB schools – Today's kids are the future of Colonial Beach and this Nation. Graded education is key to their future. For that reason, their future depends on the education they receive in our school system. Furthermore, schools are key to attracting young families to the area, which in turn increases the Town's revenue, funds that can be spent in our schools. **I believe that an independent school system is best to provide a good education.** There is a dire need to invest in our teachers, students, and classrooms to ensure our schools rise to the top of Virginia's school system. If elected, I will push for an independent study to determine the necessary investments on our schools and advocate for them wholeheartedly in every council meeting until our schools rise to the top.

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<sup>4</sup> Total dump was of 3.5 million gallons (Discussed at public hearing held July 7, 2021).