

## **Covington Mayor – Eric D. Threats**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your organization. I greatly appreciate your questions and concern for the community where we abide and serve. If you require anything further, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

### **1) When you hear the term “SUSTAINABILITY,” what does it mean to you? How would you implement sustainable measures in your jurisdiction?**

To me, sustainability means the ability to meet current needs without jeopardizing the ability to meet those same needs in the future. Sustainability requires the responsible and effective use of resources; resources that would impact social, environmental, and economic ..... of our community. Given this, to implement sustainable measures I would collaborate with strategic partners and stakeholders which will include the less powerful groups or individuals in our community.

### **2) As an elected official, what would be your philosophy for balancing those interests/perspectives in your municipality?**

As a homeowner living in the Wildwood community I feel that my family and I are on the front lines and directly impacted by this density problem. Balancing those interests and perspectives is an extreme challenge and it is complex. My philosophy for finding the balance is to prioritize the long-term well-being of our entire community. Again collaboration with and engagement of strategic partners and stakeholders in addressing residents' concerns would be my approach.

### **3) Businesses and educational institutions in our community are implementing "Zero Waste" programs to dramatically reduce the volume of waste reaching the landfill from their operations. What investments, if any, would you support your government making to pursue similar objectives?**

Zero Waste programs: use reusable straws, reusable bags, bulk purchasing, reduce food waste, reusable water bottles and use of travel/coffee mugs.

### **4) In our area, the governments of Athens-Clarke County, Atlanta, Augusta, Clarkston, DeKalb County, Decatur, Savannah, and Winterville have all set clean energy targets for 2050 or earlier. Would you be willing to propose/support clean energy targets in your jurisdiction?**

As an elected official, I would definitely be open to proposing and supporting clean energy targets in my community but only if it meets the needs and desires of the community. Any decision on such a large scale requires community buy-in and support. Decisions impacting our entire community involves a thorough consideration of our goals across the spectrum—environmental, economic, and social—while engaging the community.

**5) The state of Georgia and the Atlanta Regional Commission have received EPA grants for \$3 million and \$1 million, respectively, to develop collaborating climate pollution reduction plans. These plans will open grant opportunities for municipalities in the 29-county metro Atlanta area to reduce their climate pollution. Drawdown Georgia, a statewide initiative led by researchers from UGA, Georgia Tech and Emory University, identifies 20 Georgia-specific climate solutions that provide a roadmap for reducing climate emissions across the state. What climate pollution reduction actions would you prioritize and seek funding for in your city?**

Prioritizing and seeking funding for climate pollution reduction actions in our community should involve a useful, feasible, ethical, and accurate approach that aligns with the unique challenges and needs of the community. A few climate pollution reduction actions that could be prioritized and considered for funding in Covington would be—climate resilience planning, collaboration with local institutions, community partnerships, data collection and monitoring.

The specific actions to prioritize will really depend on Covington's current emissions profile, available resources, and of course community engagement. Developing a comprehensive climate action plan in collaboration with key stakeholders will be essential to determine the most effective and feasible strategies for reducing climate pollution in Covington, while also considering the opportunities presented by the grants from the state and Atlanta Regional Commission.