

Linda Vacon



"For You,
For Holyoke"

CITIZEN'S FORUM for WARD 5 RESIDENTS

Meet with Linda at Dino's Pizza
located in the plaza at Homestead and Westfield Road
(Rt. 202)

Sunday, October 16th, 1:00PM

Forum Minutes:

Approximately a dozen people attended the first citizens forum since the covid epidemic. We welcomed Mayor Garcia as our guest speaker.

1) Update from Mayor Garcia:

Mayor Garcia updated the group on his approach and initiatives that are ongoing in Holyoke including: Police audit, staffing progress in DPW, renewal/audit of the sewer contract, speeding issues throughout the city and his work to provide improved services to our city. He noted that he is seeking interested citizens for committees.

2) Update on Middle Schools and question: Will Donahue be the middle school? There will be a meeting November 1st, regarding the choice of the middle school: place to be determined.

3) Time for updates, questions, concerns & comments:

After Mayor Garcia gave his overview, he remained at the meeting to hear questions, concerns and updates in Ward 5. The Mayor and I agreed to follow up on a number of issues and coordinate to resolve some of the issues raised. Those issues include:

- a) **Safety issue** of line painting especially crosswalks at schools and branches blocking crosswalk lights at Homestead and Kane and McMahon school
- b) **Water issue** on Meggison
- c) **Truck traffic** on Homestead at night
- d) **Sunken/broken manhole covers** on Homestead and other streets leading to safety issues and noise and accidents by those riding bicycles.
- e) **Speeding traffic:** The light on Rt. 202 is scheduled for installation in the spring of 2023.

Suggestions made included:

- a) **Add sensor lights** at low bridges to warn trucks
- b) **Add one traffic officer** per shift-ask state police to train them on truck laws and use funds to keep traffic division.
- c) **Ticket trucks** for violations to encourage compliance.

All present thanked Mayor Garcia for his generous sharing of his time during the weekend along with his wife Stephany and gave a round of applause.

VISIT www.LindaVacon.org FOR
MORE INFORMATION OR
Call 210-6077