

January 4, 2023

Dear Neighbor,

Greetings in the New Year! As your City Councilor here in Ward 5, I wish you health and happiness in 2023.

During the last year as we all continued to deal with Covid, I served you and our city as **Chair of the Ordinance Committee and member of the Development & Government Relations Committee**. We resumed meeting in person while also keeping a remote option to deal with health concerns.

Highlights from 2022:

- Worked to **improve neighborhoods by advocating for road repaving** (Green Willow, Village, McClellan, Rock Valley and Apremont)
- **Advocated for a lower tax rate** by proposing one of the lowest rates for homeowners (when property taxes increase, the costs are passed on to renters). People who have paid off their home loans are now getting squeezed as increased costs of food, energy, sewer, electricity, gas and ever-increasing property taxes exceed any small increases in their income which is often fixed.
- **Promoted safer neighborhoods by ensuring that faded street lines were re-painted** on busy roads with high traffic volume here in Ward 5, adding speed signs and no parking signs in unsafe areas.
- Led initiatives to increase public safety by enforcing our laws including traffic enforcement (we now have a **collaboration with the State Police for truck enforcement** on Homestead Ave.), code enforcement, including housing and workplace safety in our growing marijuana industry.
- Continued with **responsive constituent service**; following up on many issues and requests, most frequently involving traffic and safety concerns; reaching out to the Police Department, DPW and Board of Health (recently appointed Code Officer Edwin Sustache) re: public safety, workplace, sanitation and enforcement matters.
- At the end of 2022, I **co-filed an order requesting Governor Healy to return local control of our schools** as we believe local control can produce improved results for our students. This was unanimously approved by our City Council.

I recently met with Mayor Garcia to review budget priorities for our Ward 5 area. Currently, the top issues I hear from residents include: traffic and speeding; road conditions (pot holes, need for re-paving, sunken sewer covers and broken-down patches); and painting of crosswalks (some now requested for 3 years).

In 2023, **I remain committed to serving you** and hope you will reach out to me with any concerns or questions. I periodically send out email updates. Please email me at [lindavac@aol.com](mailto:lindavac@aol.com) if you wish to be added to the list. You can also find these updates and local informational articles on my website at <https://www.lindavacon.org/> Also feel free to call me at 413-210-6077. If you leave a message, I will return your call. Text messages can also be sent if you prefer.

I look forward to hearing from you!

*Linda Vacon,*

*Your Ward 5 City Councilor*