

# The Delray Democrat

## Just My Opinion<sup>1</sup>

*Char Lane*

There will be critical local elections on March 9, 2021, and the ballot will feature three must-win Delray Beach Commission seats, including Seat #5 for Mayor. The outcome of this election will most likely determine the future of Delray Beach, and whether it will remain the “Village by the Sea” or continue its transformation into a “City by the Sea.”

Over the past few years, some members of the Delray Beach City Commission have consistently favored the interest of developers over protectors of Delray Beach as we currently know it. I believe incumbent Shelly Petrolia to be the best candidate for mayor in the March 2021 municipal election.

She’s a Democrat and holds opinions in line with our Democratic beliefs. She has made Delray Beach her home for almost thirty years and has a vested interest in maintaining the pristine beauty and charm of the city. This includes opposing some of the recent and more obstructive development proposals. She sees herself as standing between what we currently have and the Fort Lauderdale clone which we might become if development were to continue unchecked and uncontrolled. She does, however, support development where it will benefit and enhance the City, with a focus on West Atlantic Avenue.

Her many accomplishments as a City Commissioner, including the regulation of sober homes and the restructuring of city pensions, reflect a hard-working and focused representative of her Delray Beach constituents. She has a grasp of the rising sea level issues and continues to become educated about and search for solutions. As such, she has attended almost every South Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties have partnered to coordinate and monitor climate change and work cohesively to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions and other factors contributing to climate change) meeting for the past six years and Delray Beach has benefitted from the resulting sea wall and vulnerability studies.

We can surely all agree that we are fortunate to live in such a vibrant, beautiful, charming and fun city and would like to keep it that way. One of the most important actions you will take as a Delray Beach resident this year is to vote. As we (DCDB) will be hosting a candidate’s night Thursday, January 14, 2021, please think about questions for which you would like answers from Shelly and the other candidates.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, January 2021, p. 6.