

The Delray Democrat

What Has Mayor Shelly Petrolia Done Right? Plenty¹

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A colleague was recently criticizing Mayor Petrolia's leadership and "challenged" me to offer one thing she has done well. When it comes to the important challenges facing Delray Beach, Mayor Petrolia has been on the right side of all of them. Here is the list!

1. Some development is necessary to maintain our city economy. Mayor Petrolia has consistently fought for responsible and balanced development. She has resisted the power and influence of big, wealthy developers who want to build larger and larger buildings we do not need and that threaten our future and character as a Village by the Sea. She supports meaningful construction to bring jobs, markets, etc., to underserved areas of the city and ensure sufficient workforce housing so those who work here and serve here can also afford to live here. Mayor Petrolia is an ardent supporter of preserving the historic sections of the city.
2. Climate issues, including rising sea levels, pose a direct threat to our future. Mayor Petrolia has attended multiple conferences with other coastal leaders to understand the challenges, options to protect the city, and to form partnerships with similar communities that will better able Delray Beach to address these issues. She supports reasonable sustainability initiatives that will also improve our quality of life.
3. Delray Beach has infrastructure challenges like all municipalities. Mayor Petrolia has worked for solutions to improve traffic and parking challenges, access to shops and restaurants, anti-flooding measures, improvements to roads and sidewalks, and led the way to ensure the safety of our drinking water. The faulty system was installed many years before Mayor Petrolia began her service on the City Commission, but when the problem was revealed, she made sure the water was being regularly tested and met or exceeded safety standards.
4. Despite the unfortunate and intentional lies being told by Mike and Tracy Caruso about Delray Beach defunding the police, Mayor Petrolia and the City Commission had actually increased their budget by over \$1 million for this year. Although the amount of increase was not as large as originally planned, there was never any talk of defunding our police. She will keep our city safe and supports all of our first responders.

Thank you, Mayor Petrolia. Keep fighting for the people of Delray Beach and our Village by the Sea.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, February 2021, p.2.