

On the Corners of Delray Beach

Shirley Johnson, City Commissioner and Deputy Vice-Mayor

This column will attempt to inform and educate anyone interested in the City of Delray Beach (from a governance perspective). Welcome to the first installment.

It has been an active five months since the new members were sworn onto the City Commission. We have addressed the issue of whether the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) should remain independent or whether the commissioners should assume those) We decided to keep it independent, replaced three of the CRA commissioners (due to term limits/or non-reappointments), retained one, and appointed a new Chair. The CRA has a great deal of work to do in the NW/SW/SE. The planned extension of the Downtown from I-95 to A1A is creating both excitement and opportunity! The alleys are being cleaned in those communities and one of the newest Avenues to be beautified is NW 12th Avenue. It is beautiful. Take a drive through to see it.

There will be a NEW KID IN TOWN soon. The old library site will be replaced with an IPIC Movie Theatre! Look it up and stay tuned. No more need to travel to Boca or Boynton or West Atlantic to see a newly released MOVIE. Can't wait. Getting my popcorn ready.

There will soon be growth movement on Swinton and West Atlantic of some type or another. Also the South of Atlantic district (SofA) is growing by leaps and bounds. Check it out.

There is progress on our Parking Management Plan. Voice your opinions. Meters on all of Atlantic from [A1A](#) west to Swinton? Also talk of a Resident Parking Plan. No final decisions yet. Contact your Commissioners if you have thoughts to share.

Do you feel that your Community is being heard at your City government discussions? If not, what do you plan to do about it?

We are in the midst of submitting our budget for finalization by September 30th. The millage rate was decreased by one point. Did you receive your proposed tax bill in the mail yet?

The non-partisan City Commission election is already starting to HEAT UP. Two candidates have announced their decisions. Commissioner Mitch Katz is running to retain his Seat #3 and Commissioner Shelly Petrolia (presently in Seat #1) is running for Seat #5 – the Mayor's position. The election for Seats #1, #3 and #5 is scheduled for March 13, 2018. I encourage everyone to participate in the most basic level of our government – the City.

Ending on an exciting note – DELRAY BEACH WAS AWARDED ITS THIRD “All America City Award” for our civic engagement to help more young children from low-income families achieve grade-level reading proficiency and early school success. Research has long shown that when children read at proficient levels by third grade they are more likely to complete high school prepared for college, a career, and active citizenship. We are the only Florida city to have been awarded THREE of these awards. Another Delray Beach exclusive. Congratulations to everyone who was a part of this winning this achievement!

