



For Immediate Release:

08/05/19

Residents of Muncie,

I would like to address the recent concerns regarding my picture at the groundbreaking ceremony for the newly proposed Waelz Sustainable Products, LLC (WSP) facility on July 18th and the recent environmental concerns that have been brought to my attention by many residents. As a mayoral candidate, I was invited to participate with other candidates and local officials in the groundbreaking ceremony for this new project. I attended so I could meet with company officials because I believe in the importance of bringing good paying jobs to our community. I realize now that attending this ceremony was premature when an environmental permit is still in process, and so many unanswered questions remain. I am appreciative that so many residents have reached out to me via social media, email and other avenues to share their concerns regarding what they have researched and found related to the company's air permit application with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). A lot of what I have read and researched is certainly cause for alarm, and I wholeheartedly agree with Senator Tim Lanane and Representative Sue Errington that IDEM needs to hold a public hearing and that these concerns merit our full attention and must include a transparent response from IDEM and company officials.

While I haven't officially supported this company's proposal in any sort of manner other than attending the groundbreaking ceremony and taking a picture with company officials, my opponent is a currently elected District #2 City Council member who is paid a salary from public tax dollars to thoroughly vet, research and vote on such development and projects. I will take this time to announce and vow to you that where this project currently stands, and from what has been unveiled by the research and time of countless concerned citizens, that I cannot support a project that could cause damage to our environment like what is currently proposed in the company's proposed air permit. We must allow the company to answer these concerns in a civil and public meeting in the near future. WSP has proposed a public forum on August 20th and I will be there in support of the citizens of this great city to hear their answers to the questions posed by many of you. I intend to meet with members of our General Assembly delegation to ask for immediate oversight and stringent review of the proposed permit. That permit will be available for public comment and I encourage all involved and concerned to respond and to lend their voice during public debate.

While I will be vigilantly researching and watching this closely, I still believe that the greatest social program is a job. We all know that our community has lost thousands of jobs due to the combination of economic downturns, recessions, outsourcing, automation, globalization and in

many cases, disinvestment in our community. I have talked with scores of people who ask what will I do as our next Mayor to retain good-paying jobs and to recruit additional and better-paying jobs to Muncie. I vow to you that I will work tirelessly to seek out companies that promote and use renewable energy, and that make conscious efforts to reduce and minimize their carbon footprint while simultaneously providing good-paying, high-quality jobs and not at the cost of deteriorating our public health.

Let's all be honest with each other. I do not want Muncie to be the dumping ground for environmental waste. I also don't want Muncie to be the unemployment capital of our state. I want and will demand as Mayor that those who seek the opportunity to do business with our community make a steadfast commitment to be open in all of their actions. I want and will demand as Mayor that state and federal agencies be responsive and responsible to our community. And, I will want and demand as Mayor that my colleagues on the City Council exercise maximum oversight of any economic development projects so that we retain and recruit jobs that will pay wages at a level to adequately support their families. I also will be a Mayor that is not afraid to ask the tough questions, particularly when it comes to protecting our environment.

The answer to this turning point in our community is not easy. It will require a concerted effort by leaders in business, labor, our institutions of public education, the faith-based community, our non-profit sector and yes, our residents if we are going to be competitive for jobs. I will do what I've done all my life---tell the truth and always be consistent in what I am doing; be accessible to those who genuinely want to make a difference; and be transparent in all of my actions. That is how I will serve you and our fellow neighbors here in Muncie. We will be inclusive and we will be committed to the future of our community.

In his inaugural address, John Kennedy said, "Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate." Let us begin tonight. For ALL of Muncie and for our future. Together, we rise....to make our voices heard.

In Service,

Terry Whitt Bailey