

# Long Beach Business Journal

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LONG BEACH BUSINESS JOURNAL ENDORSEMENT – APRIL 14 SPECIAL ELECTION

## Supernaw For The 4th District City Council Seat

■ By **GEORGE ECONOMIDES**, Publisher

The Long Beach Business Journal is endorsing Daryl Supernaw in the April 14 special election for the Long Beach City Council 4th District seat. Supernaw's credentials far exceed those of the other candidates. In fact, there is simply no comparison as to who is the best-qualified person to serve the district.

For starters, Supernaw, whose father was a Long Beach firefighter, has lived in the district his entire life. He attended Buffum Elementary School, Stanford Middle School and Wilson High School. He received his bachelors and masters degrees from California State University, Long Beach. He is a proven neighborhood leader for the district and the city, and has years and years of private sector experience.

Supernaw was previously involved with the adopt-a-school program, and coached soccer and Little League teams. He literally went to bat for the district with the Atherton corridor freeway off ramp project in 1986 (resulting in the city receiving \$1.5 million in traffic mitigation funds from Caltrans/Orange County Transportation Authority) and the Atherton ditch project (a 20-year campaign with the end result being a \$3 million infrastructure and beautification project built without using local funds).

He's been involved with neighborhood clean ups, went door-to-door with petitions helping establish preferential parking districts in areas around the university, founded the Atherton Corridor Neighborhood Association in 2007 and served on the 4th District's Budget Advisory Committee plus numerous other area committees and task forces. He was a charter member of the Long Beach Sustainable City Commission and is its current chair.

That's quite a resumé, but just a partial list. To say his 4th District roots are deep is an understatement.

His chief opponent, Herlinda Chico, purchased a home in the district in 2011, then a year later announced she would run in the 2012 city council race, only to back out. Her campaign material claims she is a "community leader," but after living in the district for four years, we cannot find a single example of community service to the 4th District. Think about that.

What she has been involved with in Long Beach, though, are union-related issues, which concerns many people in the city, including us. We wrote recently that if she wins, she is an automat-

ic vote for whatever the numerous unions supporting her want, including forcing minimum wage hikes on small business and supporting placing an increase to the utility users tax on the ballot. She's on the record with that despite her recent attempts to back away from her comments.

She also claims to have worked to help small businesses, but, again, we cannot find even one example of her working with Long Beach businesses prior to running for office.

Chico graduated high school in Bell Gardens and received a bachelor's in mass communications from Cal State San Bernardino. She currently works as a "media specialist" for the City of Commerce. She is a former staffmember for the 7th City Council District, worked at the Central City East Association in Los Angeles and is a past vice president of the Long Beach Lambda Democratic Club.

Her candidate statement is printed in English and Spanish but, unlike Supernaw, she failed to print it in Khmer, the official language of Cambodia. The westside of the 4th District includes part of Cambodia Town, where businesses need support to grow and prosper.

With no track record of involvement in 4th District events, issues or needs, and a sure-fire fifth vote on the city council on union issues, this city will be heading down the wrong track for years to come if Chico wins and control of the city falls into union hands. The people and groups who have endorsed her certainly didn't care about her lack of district involvement.

Before district residents cast their ballot, we hope they pay attention to the differences among the candidates and who has rolled up his sleeves to help them time and again over the years. Supernaw has invested his entire life to making the 4th District a better place to live and raise a family.

We strongly urge 4th District residents to vote for Supernaw, and residents and businesses throughout the city should support him financially to help counter the tens of thousands of dollars to be spent by unions to get Chico elected.

*(George Economides has lived in Long Beach for more than 60 years, attended K-12 schools here and received his AA from Long Beach City College. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force, 1966-70, and obtained his bachelors in communications from CSU Fullerton. He launched the Business Journal in 1987 and has followed local politics for more than 40 years.) ■*