



Last month we reached out to the Albany Common Council candidates to attend a meeting with NNORC residents to introduce themselves and talk about their platform/plans, particularly as it relates to issues that impact older adults. We also asked them to include a short paragraph that covers the same.

Please join us on Wednesday, May 12 at 6 p.m. for this virtual discussion. If you would like to attend, please call NNORC at 518-514-2023 or email nnorc@jfsneny.org.

7TH WARD - SERGIO ADAMS, VIOLETTA DE ROSA AND BRIAN SCAVO

My name is **Sergio Adams**, and I am a community organizer running to be the next Common Council Member for the 7th Ward. I am focusing my efforts on moving the Ward forward in many ways, but most of all towards building a family-friendly community, and that includes the senior members of our neighborhoods. I will work to ensure the City installs publicly-owned high-speed internet, not only so that children have access, but also so that seniors on a fixed income will have equal access to this costly but much needed resource. I would also advocate for more traffic control devices and police presence regarding speeding and reckless drivers, to make our community more walkable for all. I know that crime is a concern for many seniors, so I will work with the administration and Police Department to strengthen our Community Policing Program, and bring more officers to our streets at night when we need them most. And as your next Council Member, I will always be available by phone for any resident to reach out to with concerns. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you on our Zoom call.

Violetta De Rosa is a long-time resident of Albany and Democrat, running to be the next Albany Common Councilmember in the 7th Ward. She and her spouse, Patrick Purcell, chose their 7th Ward home 15 years ago to raise their family, because they loved the area's diversity, vibrancy, and proximity to everything. As a member of the Common Council, Violetta will advocate for all our children, seniors, and families to ensure there is equity for all of Albany neighborhoods. She will fight for all the residents of the 7th Ward, so that they get their fair share of the City's resources. She is committed to working hard to address the quality-of-life issues that impact our neighborhoods, from urban blight, speeding, street and sidewalk maintenance to driving economic development to bring back Delaware Ave. For more information about her candidacy, please contact a Violetta directly 518- 992-5490 or visit www.violettaderosa.org.

Brian Scavo did not submit a paragraph.

9TH WARD CANDIDATES – JOLYN GALLAGHER AND MEGHAN KEEGAN

Hello, my name is **Jolyn Gallagher** and I am a lifelong resident of Albany. I've raised my family here, my son is a graduate of Albany High, class of 2020 and my daughter is currently in 8th grade at Hackett middle school. I have been an active member in our community since the beginning. I served as PTA board member and President for both New Scotland elementary school and currently at Hackett as well. I've been a coach and board member for the National Little League and continue there as a volunteer. My career began as a Special Education TA at the Center for Disabilities Services for 17 years and have since been employed by the Albany City School district where I received tenure last year. My commitment to our community is rich and layered. I look forward to bringing an independent and invested presence to the Common Council for Ward 9 and all the residents of Albany.

In speaking with the members of our community, there have been several conversations about issues that have impacted and will possibly affect our older population. Amongst the many, several have kept coming up including but not limited to: walkability, gun violence, taxes, and the reimbursable program for backflow valves for house maintenance to name a few. Also, though spring is here, the harsh winter is still on many minds. A serious issue is the plowing of/or not of the city streets, how it aligns with parking and the consistent lack of proper sidewalk clearing. Continuing these discussions and working together to find answers is what is most important.

I'm looking forward to your Meet the Candidates meeting on Zoom, Wednesday, May 12th. As always, please feel free to reach out to me at jolynalbany9@gmail.com or by phone 518-417-1941.

Meghan Keegan chose to make the City of Albany her home after graduating from college 20 years ago. In 2011, she purchased and restored a bank owned vacant property in the 9th Ward where she lives with her husband and two rescue dogs. Meghan graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the State University at Albany in 2001 followed by a Masters in Social Welfare in 2006. Meghan has been a strong advocate for the City of Albany working with concerned citizens to ensure our school budgets have passed every year; helping to launch food security programs in our poorest neighborhoods; establishing our first Volunteer Income Tax Assistance programs so our citizens were able to access Earned Income Tax Credits without the threat of predatory lenders; actively lobbying for the full funding of Albany Cure Violence/518 SNUG and the preservation of all its services and programs; she participated and assisted in the development of the Albany County Landbank legislation and lobbied to get it passed; and served on the Community Engagement Team for Albany High School assisting the district in building a model to successfully remove our schools from state receivership. Meghan is running for the position of Albany City Common Council Member representing the 9th Ward because she believes in good government. She spent the bulk of her professional career working in state government providing oversight to our mental hygiene system and ensuring that publicly funded programs are providing appropriate services as intended. Her work often intersected with issues that impact our older citizens including financial abuse and caregiver neglect. In addition, Meghan provided oversight to residential programs that specifically support our aging

population including Family Type Homes and Adult Homes. When it comes to aging in place, there are certain barriers that Meghan believes can be improved upon through coordination with our non-profit provider system, the Albany County Department for Aging, and the City of Albany. Meghan would like to see the development of resources to provide estate planning assistance to ensure our citizens are financially protected and are able to articulate the best individuals to act as healthcare proxy and power of attorney; create programs to help maintain accessibility in housing; ensure that the county's medical transportation program is connected to the City of Albany; and reduce isolation by enhancing access to recreational opportunities. Meghan also believes it is important to address property taxes and improve the City's revenue in order to ensure that those living on a fixed income are able to afford to remain in their homes.

14TH WARD – CELIA EVERS AND DEBORAH ZAMER

My name is **Celia Evers** a long time Capital Region resident, I'm a nurse with the Albany County Health Department, a CSEA union official, and a mother who served as PTA Vice President. I want to continue to improve the community around me. Quality of Life, Good infrastructure, and Fair Taxation are some of the priorities that will guide my campaign and my work in the Common Council. Senior services should be a partnership between all levels of government, non-for-profits and business community. Together with my husband Rob, a lifelong resident of the City of Albany, a sheriff and former sheriff's union official, I have been taking care of my grandparents and my husbands' parents and believe that all city services must have seniors in mind.

Deb Zamer is running to be the next Common Councilmember from the 14th Ward. She's a life-long democrat, a former board member of Jewish Family Services and a JFS volunteer delivering food to seniors at the Ohav Shalom Apartments. Her top concerns for the ward are traffic safety, walkability and responsible development. She wants to make sure our tax dollars are put to good use by bringing innovative solutions to pressing issues. She is the daughter of former Albany City and County Judge Larry Rosen and Judy Rosen. Her mother's parents came to Albany after escaping the Nazi terror of WWII. She is a product of Albany City Schools, graduated from SUNY Binghamton and served in the Peace Corps. She and her husband, Joshua, have two sons who attend Albany City Schools.