

**Marie Lorenzini, Candidate For Mayor of Nyack**  
May 2009 Q&A with the Nyack Democratic Committee

- Q. **There is a concern that Nyack's infrastructure, including sidewalks, is deteriorating. If you agree that this is a concern, how would you find money to deal with this concern?**

"How could one not agree.....infrastructure is a crucial investment in Nyack.

With the economy in such financial distress Nyack had to pass a budget reflecting some very difficult financial constraints. Proper planning and a review of Nyack's operating budget over the next many months should point to a plan for this investment in our infrastructure, it is an investment that can not be made haphazardly....I will propose a phased capital plan to address this matter."

- Q. **What specific blocks or neighborhoods should be a priority in terms of improvement and how would you undertake these improvements?**

"As Nyack consists of an area of 1 square mile, I think more than addressing neighborhoods we need to look at the routes of circulation of those who come into, and shop in the Village, and address these areas individually and as this is accomplished, the Village as a whole will see more improvements. The status of Nyack's financial viability holds the key to this."

- Q. **Should parking permits be issued to residents to allow them exclusive parking on their street during certain hours?**

Parking is always an issue in Nyack. Nyack has alternate side overnight parking and permit parking near the downtown, as well as two (2) 24/7 parking permit lots available to residents. To offer more than these options to accommodate resident only parking would require a request and approval process thru the State of New York. At this time, concerns for public safety and street maintenance issues seem to be the priority."

- Q. **Which parts of the proposed Riverspace project do you view positively? Negatively? Why?**

"Love the concept! The creativity, exciting ideas, potential for attracting new residents, business' and consumers to Nyack....these are concepts that are worthy of discussion. For a concept to be wholly embraced it must be financially and fiscally sound. Incentives, whether tax or zoning etc. are one thing, but actual projects costs can't be sustained by a one square mile Village tax base where \$22,000 in expense is equal to a 1% tax levy."

**Q. How would you tighten the village budget?**

As I have stated publicly at Village Board meetings, it is not a matter of "tightening the budget" it is a matter of more efficiently operating the Village. I understand that a village needs to be run like a business and I have proven managerial experience in this area."

**Q. How would you attract new businesses to downtown specifically, and Nyack in general?**

"The best way to attract new business is to present our village in it's best light. As a vibrant, safe community where existing businesses are successful. We can start by addressing some of the issues noted in questiions 1-5. I support the downtown revitalization/streescaple plan towards this end."

**Q. Should Nyack make it a priority to have a publically funded community center? If so, where would funds come from and if not, what are some alternatives?**

"I must again refer to these difficult times in our economy and the fiscal posture of the Village of Nyack. Our budget and bonding availability and the Village tax dollars do not make construction of a community center a viable alternative. At present the Village of Nyack publicly funds the Nyack Center, whose services fulfill some of the needs that would be offered by a community center. This is a wonderful benefit to our community. Our tax dollars also fund the Nyack School District and the Town of Orangetown and their programs. Their programs and facilities must be tapped into for the balance of the community center needs. In an official capacity I would lead and support a Village of Nyack Community Group to make sure the town and school district are accountable to the needs of Nyack. Additional tax dollars required for constructiion of a community center would reduce the dollars residents have for family needs."

**Q. How should the village government balance the needs of its residents and its business owners when their interests do not coincide?**

"Acknowledging that the needs of its residents and its business owners may not always coincide, I believe consistent, open dialogue, forging consensus and involvement of all to aid the governing body to act in accomplishing what's best for the village, as always to keep in mind the goal of the whole as opposed to the goal of individuals...this is not an easy objective, but unless it begins, there will be no "balancing of needs." Acknowledging that the business owners and residents are dependent upon one another, reaching a consensus will benefit both"

**Q. What specific skills do you possess that will strengthen your ability to be mayor?**

"I believe in conversation and not confrontation as a basis for beginning a process. Having run a business in the past, my communication and managerial skills are proven strengths. My background is strong in the development field, as I have been involved in the development and management of retail centers, hotels, office buildings and site subdivision. I possess financial acumen, a sense of responsibility and accountability as well as the ability to work with diverse groups."