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COMPLETE

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Q1

Candidate Name:

Gerald Dustin Wiley

Q2

In what municipality (City, Town, Village) do you live?

Cloudcroft

Q3

How long have you lived in this municipality?

7 years

Q4

Email address

dusty@dustybootsmotel.com

Q5

Phone number for voters to reach out to you

575-800-4538

Q6

Other Information

Campaign Website

dusty@dustybootsmotel.com

Q7

If elected, what would be your first priority as Mayor?

Community first! I would talk to anyone who wants to talk to me, be it a full-time or part-time resident and find out what their top concerns and/or ideas are for the direction of this village. Also my top priority would be to address the ongoing water issues. I would seek grants & federal & state funding, hire a hydrologist, fix existing wells, drill new wells & fix the leaks. We're losing at least 1M gallons of water monthly through leaks & this is unacceptable. The village has known this for over 2 decades & no one has seriously addressed this issue to date.

Q8

What can you as Mayor do to determine the usefulness of ordinances and regulations in serving citizens without unnecessarily overburdening anyone?

In my previous 33 year career, I was the assistant Commissioner of Agriculture serving farmers, growers & ranchers. I was solely responsible for a budget of \$77M & I oversaw directly 73 employees. I abhor big government red tape & unnecessary ordinances & regulations. I always made it my mission to cut through the BS to most effectively serve the farmers, growers & ranchers that depended on me. As Mayor, I will do the same for the residents of Cloudcroft. I will give 200% of my energy to assist the residents here using a hands on common sense approach with as little government interference as possible. Where ordinances & regulations are required, I will educate myself & seek the knowledge of others to ensure that I do not unnecessarily overburden anyone.

Q9

What would you do to streamline permitting and other government red tape in order to attract new business to the City/Town/Village?

Potential businesses already have to go through extensive permitting & other government red tape at the state level. I know this personally as it will be 2 years as of 2/24 that I have been waiting on my permit for the steakhouse I am building. As long as the business meets with the vision of the Cloudcroft residents, the Cloudcroft trustees & meets the approval of the Cloudcroft Planning & Zoning, I would base most of the permit approval off of the state approval of the permits. I would streamline the process & not require unnecessary further permitting.

Q10

How would you, as Mayor, make the citizens safer?

Foremost, I would never give up the Cloudcroft Police Department in favor of contracting with the Otero Sheriff's Department, unlike some of my worthy contenders for the Mayor position. My wife is a retired police officer, & I served as a reserve deputy for 10 years. I've seen first hand what happens when small local police departments are done away with & law enforcement is contracted to the county. You do not & will not get the same quality of service. Your local cops patrol & serve the village within the jurisdictional boundaries & are nearby when needed. A county deputy is not going to best serve our needs if he is responding to a call in Timberon & is logistically unable to respond in a timely manner for a call for service in the village. Your local cops know the populace they serve. This is critical. They know the people & the vehicles in their neighborhoods. They are tuned in & are quick to recognize when someone or something is "off". This innate ability only comes from being very familiar with the community they serve. The residents are also much more likely to seek out an officer for assistance or advice before a situation escalates if they know the officer. I think a local police department is paramount to a safe community. I would also ask the state to put up the signs for the short safety corridor by the school. This ordinance was passed over 3 years ago, but is not enforced & is unenforceable as the current administration has not requested the signs to be posted. The school administrators & I had to fight for this ordinance, & it is not worth the paper it is written upon without the signs. Our kids lives matter.

Q11

What would you do as Mayor to keep current businesses from closing/leaving while attracting more businesses to our community?

I would encourage more community activities that are free or low cost for family fun. Family fun activities would attract more tourists to town as people are just looking for an excuse to head to the mountains & our residents would enjoy more things to do too. I miss the old outhouse races & the Labor Day activities at the park. I think a seasonal multi vendor weekly farmer's market would be fantastic. My wife helped start a farmer's market in Redlands, CA over 30 years ago. They only had 2 vendors when it first began. It now has over 80 vendors & brings people to town from all over. These people in turn bring revenue to all of the local businesses. While we would never expect, nor want to have that big of a farmer's market, I do envision a nice size venue that has a little something for everyone. There is not a lot of area to expand brick & mortar & I think it is important to consider new ways to bring people to the village. Again, I would want the input from the residents & current business owners to get their thoughts on this. We want the type of vendors that bring people to the community who will spend their dollars at the shops, restaurants & lodging establishments.

Q12

While you have no jurisdiction over the courts and judges, you do have influence over crime reduction in the City/Town/Village. What would you do as Mayor to address the growing number of criminals on our streets?

As stated above, I would keep our law enforcement local. Local cops know who the law biding citizens are & who the bad eggs are. They also know our kids. They recognize the kids that are struggling, are impulsive & who make immature choices. Local officers who know their community & who are known in their community do a lot of proactive work that keeps some troubled youth from becoming tomorrow's criminals. Local cops are vested in their community & they care. It is not just a job for them. They are protecting their neighbors, their friends & their loved ones.

Q13

Regarding the growing homeless situation, what is your plan as Mayor to address the needs of this population?

Homelessness is not an overwhelming issue within our village. Seasonally, the weather does not allow for it half the year. The other half of the year, we do not have the problem in the village, but it is an issue our forests and Forest Rangers face during the summer months. We do not have the resources here to provide for long term housing & other needed services. Because of my background in law enforcement, I do know what services are available & how to access these services. I would do my best to relocate any homeless people in need to Alamogordo so that they may access the services that would best support them.

Q14

Relating to 2nd Amendment rights, do you support or oppose ordinances or laws that would outlaw high-capacity magazines or 'assault rifle' possession? Please explain your answer.

I oppose any ordinances or law that would outlaw or restrict high-capacity magazines or assault rifle possession. Based upon the Constitution of the United States and the current standing of said constitution, I stand by the 2nd Amendment rights and I will not infringe on that right either with an opinion to the contrary or be any action or deed.

Q15

Relating to 2nd Amendment rights, do you support or oppose the governor's health order on gun carry restrictions? Please explain your answer.

I oppose the governor's health order on gun carry restrictions. I do not believe one person in any elected position may arbitrarily change a law, or make mandates and call it a health order without due process through the elected legislative body. I do not believe any state has the right to infringe upon any of the United States Constitutional Rights. Frankly, I am appalled that one person of authority, namely the New Mexico governor, feels that she has the right to infringe upon those rights & call it a health order.

Q16

Relating to 'Home Rule', do you support or oppose a City/Town/Village's rights to adopt constitutionally based policies that may conflict with state mandates?

I believe a city, town, or village has the right to adopt constitutionally based policies that may conflict with state mandates if the majority deem it appropriate. I believe in local government because local government is not a one size fits all & should be there to best serve the residents it represents. I believe the constitutional rights that protect our rights and liberties trumps state mandates.

Q17

Why are you seeking this office, and what makes you the most qualified person to be Mayor?

I am seeking this office because I believe strongly in community first. Those that hold any office need to take their own special interests, especially if they have business interests, out of the equation and seek to do what is best for the community at all times. Even if it is to their detriment. I believe that is the overwhelming reason there are six candidates running for Mayor. Many residents, are asking for change, & they deserve to have a Mayor that puts their needs & the community's needs first. I have the budget experience. I have the experience working hand in hand with other government agencies. I have experience overseeing a large government department. I have experience in securing state & federal grants & funding. I know how government works, but most importantly, I know how to make government work for the people.

Q18

Have you ever been arrested for a felony or misdemeanor crime? If yes, please explain.

No

Q19

Have you ever been delinquent in paying taxes or other financial obligations? If yes, please explain.

No
