

Check the Facts about Opponent's Lies

Stafford Voters, AJ's opponent continues a path of false campaign tactics and has no vision for moving Stafford forward.

Here is the **TRUTH**:

- Opponent states AJ proposed millions to the Grid developers with no guarantee of return.

Truth: AJ supported, and city council approved a Performance Based Sales Tax Incentive Contract with The Grid Developer (also known as a 360 Agreement). **The city of Stafford receives the first \$250,000 of sales tax each year (guarantee)**. Any sales tax above \$250,000 is split between the developer and the city, on a graduated basis, until the Developer is reimbursed \$8,400,000 plus interest for public infrastructure cost, the Developer paid for in advance. The 360 Agreement with the Grid Developer is the primary reason for sales tax revenue being up 21.65% in the middle of a pandemic. This is a "No Risk, Performance Based Agreement". The opponent is the same council member that wanted warehouses in Promenade instead of residential homes and retail businesses like Starbucks and McDonalds. The opponent is also the same council member that recently rezoned the largest tract of undeveloped land on Kirkwood and Highway 90 to forbid residential homes and gave the landowner \$2.3 million to extend cash road for new construction of a nonperforming empty warehouse. You need a Mayor that understands economic development and how Performance Based Agreements work. That is why AJ Honore, experienced with over \$3 Billion in Economic Development Projects is our best choice for Mayor.

- Opponent states AJ will add a residential drainage assessment:

Truth: Cecil Willis used public funds years ago to build new curb and gutter streets in front of his house and for friends including former council members. He partially funded the project with an assessment against homeowners and then voted against open ditch drainage improvement for others in Missouri City Estates and Vaccaro Manor, leaving dozens of homes vulnerable to flooding. AJ does not support a drainage assessment against residential homeowners. The problem was caused by poor city planning and commercial developments and the city has a responsibility to work through a solution without a residential drainage assessment. Residential homeowners should not have to be assessed for mistakes the City made in planning and delaying improvements. AJ will collaborate and raise capital from other sources to get the work done right without favoritism.

- Opponent states AJ wants residents to pay for their own sidewalk repairs.

Truth: This is an outright lie and fabrication to deceive voters to win by any means necessary. AJ fought hard to reverse damage done by Willis rejecting sidewalks when Staffordshire Road was expanded years ago to provide better mobility to the Stafford Municipal School District and Municipal Complex. Everyone knows it was a major failure to not include sidewalks when the road was enhanced years ago. AJ worked with Fort Bend County mobility improvement funds to help pay for the sidewalks and new LED Streetlights on Staffordshire Road. AJ is committed to work with Fort Bend County to continue helping Stafford build better mobility and safety for citizens. Maintenance of public sidewalks and streets are the responsibility of City leadership. That includes open ditch areas that Cecil Willis ignored for years as a council member. AJ understands the value of having a walkable community and the trip hazard personal injury risk of not maintaining our sidewalks. Another lie and deception to scare voters. My opponent cannot be trusted or counted on to do what is in the best interest of all Stafford citizens.

- Opponent states AJ will raise the mayor's salary to \$160,000.

Truth: The recommendation was made by staff and city attorney to approve the median salary developed from the market study at \$160,000. In compliance with the Home Rule Charter, in early 2019 the Human Resource Department conducted a full market study using data from cities comparable in size to Stafford to determine the market salary for duties performed by the full-time Mayor and chief executive in Stafford's form of government. The Salary Study ranged from a low of \$120,000 up to \$200,000. Recent experience with city employees and salary studies show that deviating from market-based salaries in the workplace from Police Officers to Maintenance workers and even the Mayor is problematic for employee morale and has caused legal risk to the city over the years. The city of Stafford has quietly settled several awfully expensive lawsuits caused by poor judgement in employee benefits and pay equity. Council adopted a salary of \$120,000 and the former mayor received this compensation until his passing. AJ sees no reason to deviate from the former pay structure adopted by City Council. AJ's experience as a Vice President of Employee Relations for JP Morgan Chase has been an asset in development of Stafford's Human Resource Department and mitigation of lawsuits.

- Opponent states AJ was delinquent on his property taxes for two years.

Truth: AJ has always paid property taxes and has never been delinquent with tax agreements. Many people face hardships at different times in life. Due to a financial hardship that occurred years ago from a substantial loss of business revenue, AJ arranged a standard monthly payment agreement with the county tax office. The agreement was paid in advance of the deferred due date. Cecil Willis is aware that taxpayer monthly pay agreements are not reflected in the county public records but has chosen to mislead the voters in efforts to defame Mr. Honore. This type of political campaigning eats away at the fabric of our country and the opportunity for voters to have honest debate on issues.

Undoubtedly, the opponent will continue to blow dog whistles and make defamatory comments about Mr. Honore. The opponent has no vision for moving Stafford forward in today's social economy and has shown an attitude that is not good for the people of Stafford. We cannot judge the underlining motives behind the opponent's actions, but it is not the type of leadership Stafford needs to promote unity and economic development for Stafford's future. The opponent and his surrogates will continue to create a false narrative because they have no vision for the future. The opponent stated AJ's supporters are not disciplined voters and will not come back to the polls. This shows a lack of integrity and inability to unite and support all Stafford residents.

In the middle of a pandemic we all have concerns. We are in a very important runoff election and it is critical for your future to come back to the polls during early voting Monday, November 30th to Tuesday, December 8th. Election Day is Saturday, December 12th.

Bring common ethics back to politics and elect AJ Honore as Stafford's Next Mayor.