

SPIN vs SUBSTANCE

FACTS ARE:

Who we are: Citizens for Carolina Beach (CFCB) is a nonprofit organization formed on behalf of the community for the purpose of addressing issues of concern within our local government and community. Our goal is to provide the citizens with fact-based information that will inspire a common sense approach to problem solving and expose poor decision-making within our town administration. **We do not “attack”, we simply reflect the concerns of taxpayers.**

Who our supporters are: We do not have members, we have supporters. Our supporters are working citizens from all walks of life, who have every right to unite and voice their concerns. However, while those that support our organization obviously share a common goal, they are also entitled to express their personal opinions on any issue they choose. We have received overwhelming support for our cause and we are grateful to those that have made this organization possible.

What we do and do not support: We support responsible actions on the part of our elected officials and civil servants. We do not, nor have we ever, supported any specific project or development. **Mr. Nolan's recent assertion that CFCB supports condo/hotels is a total fabrication and exactly the type of misinformation our supporters are intent on addressing.**

Mr. Nolan: You make a point of dismissing those that do not share your opinion, as if those opposing opinions have no value. That is unfortunate, but it is exactly the mind-set that inspired creation of our organization. **You use terms like “...wannabe office holders...”** as if it is a bad thing for a citizen to want to serve their community. You don't seem to care what the qualifications of the individuals are. The fact that you do not feel they share your views is reason enough for you to discount them. This is curious, especially since **you just supported the election of three “wannabes”, Bill Clark, Alan Gilbert, and Jerry Johnson.** In fact, you supported Mr. Gilbert even though he apparently had no governmental experience, held no previous office, and had no record of ever serving on a board or commission in this or any other town.

CITIZENS FOR CAROLINA BEACH

Contributions Welcomed:

PO Box 1912, Carolina Beach, NC 28428

www.citizensforcarolinabeach.org

For reference: www.carolinabeach.org

After supporting someone with Mr. Gilbert's gross lack of experience, how could you ever justify your disregard for other more experienced individuals willing to serve our community?

Additionally, the new Councilmen's problems are not about the national real estate trend. To say there has been a market slow down is a fair statement. But it is also a fact that when an economic turndown presents itself, it is the responsibility of our community leaders to react and adjust to those changing conditions in a manner that best protects the citizens from tax increases and loss of services. Blaming the market for these issues is not an answer to our town's problems. This is business 101, a concept these councilmen continually fail to grasp.

Mr. Gilbert, Your comments deserve more time.

Master Plan: Mr. Gilbert, your record is clear on this issue – or is it? A master plan *was clearly* your primary campaign promise, and that promise clearly helped get you elected. **Now you say you are trying to save the citizens money by reviewing an old market study.** Even if a five year old market study held any current value, do you really expect people to believe that it has taken almost a year to review a 66 page study? When you were running for office, and repeatedly stressing the importance of a master plan, **did you think the plan would be free?** Do you even understand the difference between a land use plan, a master plan, and a comprehensive plan? Why, in place of taking action on **any** long-term plan, do you prefer to sit back and cite problems with the old administration. How can you possibly feel you are meeting your commitment to your constituents and the taxpayers?

Appointments to P&Z: Mr. Gilbert, Jim Rees and you may be neighbors, and Jim may be a swell fellow, but that does not detract from the fact that you *are* surfing buddies *and you did* push through Jim's appointment, while ignoring the nomination of a more qualified applicant. Color it anyway you like, this is a matter of record. Is this what you meant when you promised you would insure “*non-partisan participation on the committees*”?

DOT Grants: Mr. Gilbert, yes, grant monies do sometime dry up, especially when you fail to pursue them. But you walked into office with most of the work already done. All you had to do was initiate grants the previous council had already set in play. Instead, you've spent a year reviewing a market study *that you once called useless and irrelevant*, while hundreds of thousands, and in fact, millions of DOT dollars earmarked for our town are being withdrawn or reappropriated?

Kure Beach sewer fees: Mr. Gilbert, you are quick to categorize this issue as “drawing to a close”, but what does that mean? Have you seen a check for the 2003/2004 fees? More importantly, have the audits for the subsequent years been completed, and have we also received payment for any monies due as a result of those audits? Your response to this issue may please some, but it is of little comfort to those of us that prefer actual results.

Land Use Plan: Mr. Gilbert, your campaign platform included environmental concerns and support for our LUP. Yet, when push came to shove, you supported a group of your constituents instead of protecting our wetlands. **But, you did take some actions. Those actions resulted in forcing the filling of wetlands and destruction of our natural resources!** Now you have the nerve to respond that “*Conversation districts strictly limit building in these areas*”. Is this a guess on your part? Have you ever bothered to read the ordinance or the federal regulations? This issue is about filling wetlands, not about limiting building widths. The area you refer to falls under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which allows owners to fill their lots, regardless of the zoning district. Yes, your antics may have restricted owners to narrower structures, but those owners can still build a home that is longer and narrower, and in the process, still fill the exact same amount of wetland area. But congratulations, the new project *will probably be less attractive*, and will result in one home being built behind another, blocking neighboring views. **Is this a proud moment for you?** Do you really feel your actions benefited the wetlands the community?

Height issue: Mr. Gilbert, with regard to the height issue, what have you done? You promised a referendum. But like your other campaign promises, almost a year after taking office, we haven't heard a peep about a height referendum. Don't misunderstand us; our supporters are not generally in favor of turning over responsibilities to the state that should remain with our local officials. But that does not diminish the fact, that once again, you failed at any attempt to deliver on your campaign promises.

Infrastructure: Mr. Gilbert, **we do not have enough room in this article to comment on this issue.** But please feel free to share all of the wonderful infrastructure improvements you have championed since your election? Perhaps we missed something along the way because all we have seen are talks about more fees on new construction, some emergency repairs, and policies designed to slow growth.

The blame game: Mr. Gilbert, you promised to fix problems, yet after almost a year in office all you seem capable of is blaming our problems on the old administration, a slow market, or issues that “predate” your term. When will you wake up and acknowledge that you ran for office specifically to change what the old administration was doing? **You said you had better ideas and could run the town more effectively. Will you ever mature and take responsibility for the office you sought? When will the town begin to benefit from your vast wisdom?**

Mr. Gilbert, if through your actions you continually find yourself a subject of our groups' concern, perhaps you should worry less about any one individual involved in our group, and focus more on the content of our ads and the growing concern over your style of governing. **You may have gotten away with spinning the facts during your campaign, but the citizens now want to see some substance.**

Have interest in our organization? Have any concerns you would like us to address? Like to make a contribution? Please visit our web site to access our email and PayPal, or mail us. Thank you for your support and your contributions.

We're taking a break next week but will be back soon... CFCB