**Campaign Contact Information**

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**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

1. Please share your accomplishments or experiences that indicate your commitment to advancing a pro-environment agenda. These experiences may be professional or personal.

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| For the past four years I have chaired the Environmental Protection & Policy Committee on the City Council. I have authored and passed numerous pieces of legislation including creating a director of sustainability and an environmental purchasing program to green the City’s procurement, creating a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program alongside EnergizeNY and requiring the use of ecofriendly deicing agents on City roads.  In June of 2016 I became one of the first municipal officials to publicly oppose the United States Coast Guard’s proposed rule which would allow for ten new commercial vessel anchorages along our waterfront on the Hudson River. The shores of the Hudson River should be a place where our residents and visitors can gather to live, work and play. Industry says that this dramatic expansion is necessary for safety. But it's really about their desire to expand industrial use of the River - especially for crude oil transport.  I submitted public comment to express my vehement opposition to the contemplated Yonkers extension anchorage ground. Yonkers is garnering national acclaim for the work we have accomplished in revitalizing our waterfront. From a homeland security standpoint, anchoring unmanned, unlit barges potentially carrying hazardous substances so close to one of the largest major metropolitan areas in the United States makes no sense. The proposal would put an undue burden on the Yonkers Police who do not have the manpower and lack the marine resources to adequately patrol and protect these vessels. The many environmental remediation projects that are ongoing would also be adversely affected. We also launched the Hudson River Waterfront Alliance and the #banthebarges campaign.  The Alliance's submitted public comments include implications the U.S. Coast Guard should consider when evaluating the additional barges proposal, which would effectively re-industrialize the Hudson River, which is listed as American Heritage River and designated as a National Heritage Area:   * Tides and weather will cause the barge anchors to constantly grind the floor of the Hudson River, stirring up long-dormant PCBs. * The transport of largely hazardous materials, in the form of crude and tar sands oil, brings the threat of catastrophic oil spills which would undermine the use and enjoyment of the waterfront, as well as destroy fish, bird and wildlife populations and ecosystems. * The barge zone would effectively displace recreational boating and fishing in the anchorage areas, and drastically increase the risk of collisions and loss of life. * The anchorage proposal is inconsistent with numerous New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) coast zone policies including Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans.   The Coast Guard knew or should have known about federal coastal management zone consistency and notification requirements, and consistency with our designation as a National Heritage Area and Natural Heritage River and the applicable law and rules that would have given local officials a say. It's disturbing that they've deviated from the normal process, and it's time to put the brakes on and conduct a full environmental impact study on the proposed anchorages, including the impact of doing nothing. Since they've not afforded us this opportunity, we will reserve our legal rights and take whatever action is required to ensure this rule is not adopted as it has been proposed.  Last year, we took action with the launch of a new anti-litter marketing initiative and my legislation enacting tough new penalties for littering and dumping. Now, our students have gotten involved by participating in the City's new anti-litter contest in which hundreds of school children participated, raising awareness about the environmental consequences of litter. We wanted to get all of our school children thinking about the importance of keeping our City clean. Contestants had to incorporate a slogan from the 'Respect Yonkers' advertising campaign, which features anti-litter slogans which are shrink-wrapped onto bus stations and garbage cans around the city.  During my time on the Council I have also been a champion for the planning, approval and construction of the Daylighting of the Saw Mill River at each and every phase. All of this has been accomplished working in a bipartisan fashion cooperatively with our Mayor. |

**ISSUES**

Please indicate your level of commitment to, and if applicable your recent personal and professional activity with respect to, the following issues:

*(To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review* [NYLCV’s 2016-17 Westchester Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-17WestchesterAgendaFINAL.pdf)*)*

1. Sustainable Development: Advancing modernized zoning to encourage mixed land use and compact development

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| One of the best ways we’ve encouraged smart growth principles and better land use was when as a member of the County’s Bronx River Advisory Board and Saw Mill River Watershed Advisory Board, I brought the inland waterway program to the attention of our state lawmakers. These were eventually passed and signed by the Governor and added the first tributaries in Westchester County to New York's list of inland waterways. We are now eligible to undergo the LWRP process which can help improve water quality, ensure coastal resource and environmental protections, mitigating flooding and increasing public access to the public waterways.  I also authored and passed legislation in the City Council which adopted complete streets policy for the City, requiring the planning board, zoning board and the Department of Public Works to consider sustainable complete streets design principles when implementing transportation projects. Sustainable Complete Streets are are streets that provide safe, comfortable, and convenient access for users of all abilities and all modes including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders, with elements of design, landscaping, construction and operation that also serve environmental sustainability. |

1. Invasive Species: Educating the public on this problem and implementing better management practices

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| Working with community leaders we have worked to bring environmental education to the forefront. I served on the City Council when we first established what was known as the Green Policy Task Force (GPTF). Since that time it has really served as a forerunner in bringing environmental issues to the forefront in Yonkers and helping craft legislation and policy that have improved our quality-of-life and made Yonkers a leader in the region when it comes to conservation. During my time as Council President, the GPTF members were in agreement that the City of Yonkers would be well-served by a transition from a Council-based environmental advisory board to an Administration-based one under the direction of the Mayor. Accordingly, they requested the City Council take the necessary legal steps to dissolve the GPTF so that it may be reorganized under the aegis of the city administration as a Mayoral advisory committee that continues to recognize the environmental, economic, and health benefits of innovative new local policies that discourage pollution, reduce the use of water and electricity, and promote a more sustainable way of living. |

1. Cleaner Air: Speeding up conversions and retrofits of home heating oil No. 6 and No. 4 to more efficient heating systems

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| I would be supportive of such efforts. Previously when I was on the Council we adopted an anti-idling policy to stop school buses from running indeterminably outside of schools which has helped improve air quality in Yonkers. I also supported the ban on leaf blowers which also reduces emissions. |

1. Expanding Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure: Facilitating the development of a larger network of charging stations that will encourage more municipalities, businesses and individuals to switch to EVs in the coming years

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| As Council President I’ve voted to accept the donation of two electric use vehicles for the Department of Public Works. The vans are welcome additions to our cache of equipment and will result in significant savings on fuel costs while also providing a boon to our environment in the form of cleaner air. I’ve also voted for capital budgets which have expanded the City’s use of hybrid vehicles across various departments and installed electric charging stations in the City’s parking garages. We also replaced all the lights in the Government Center, Buena Vista and Ashburton garages with energy efficient LEDs. Our department of Public Works installed the first solar and wind powered turbine street light in the United States. |

1. Sustainable Public Access Management: Making significant impacts on energy use and the environment simply by deciding to spend money and deploy resources wisely

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| Yonkers has done just that. My environmentally preferable products legislation created environmental procurement standards and an environmentally preferable products program. City agencies now incorporate them, whenever they are available and cost-effective. Yonkers purchases and consumes millions of dollars in materials and energy each year which result in an environmental and public health impact related to the production, transport, use, and disposal of the products it consumes. The use of environmentally preferable products will spur private sector development of new technologies and use of such products, creating green jobs, stimulating business development and enhancing the City's economy, while furthering our commitment to protecting our most precious resource: our environment. |

1. Transportation: Maximizing environmentally friendly mobility options in and around residential and commercial centers

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| As the author of the City’s complete streets law, our vision is to promote health and safety and encourage the creation of a comprehensive, integrated and connected network for all modes, which supports street connectivity throughout the City. Complete streets will support economic development by helping to create a walkable, vibrant City where businesses can thrive while also supporting livable neighborhoods. The goal is to increase the knowledge and importance of Complete Streets among city of Yonkers residents, make our streets safer for our children who walk or bicycle to school, and decrease the amount of automobile and pedestrian related fatalities and injuries due to crashes. |

1. Sustainable & Transit-Oriented Development: Creating livable and sustainable communities that permit increased density and diversity in our downtowns and neighborhoods

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| I have worked to ensure Yonkers will continue the exciting, catalytic daylighting of the Saw Mill River and build on our success of the 1st two phases; Phase 1 transformed a parking lot in Larkin Plaza near the confluence with the Hudson River, now known as Van Der Donck Park; while Phase 2 created the Mill St. Courtyard, a dynamic place in the heart of the business district. The 3rd and 4th phase will have a greater ecological, economic and educational impact than the earlier phases, ESD said. Phase 3 runs along New Main St. from Ann St. to the Nepperhan Avenue arterial. The river runs behind businesses but is deteriorated and surrounded by an inaccessible, 8' high fence. The City has acquired these businesses intending to demolish them and create a special gateway river-themed park. In Phase 4, the river runs under the municipal parking lot known as Chicken Island. This will spur future development of the area. The City is currently soliciting projects to anchor the Chicken Island site.  Downtown Yonkers needs this project for economic revitalization. The parks and riverwalks will foster redevelopment of the downtown areas, and the daylighting will have numerous benefits not only for tourism, but also for sustainability, including unearthing the natural river, bioretention, replacing combined sewers and other environmental and water quality benefits. |

1. Open Space Preservation: Planning strategies such as clustering, creating pocket parks in developed areas, and encouraging biotic corridors in less densely populated areas

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| The 2017 budget which was passed last month contained funding for new environmental initiatives thanks to changes proposed by the Council Majority. I worked to include funding for a municipal tree study, a recent suggestion by the Green City Advisory Committee. This addition by the Council Majority will provide funding to help inventory trees throughout the City, which will contribute to tree health, flood mitigation neighborhood beautification and economic development. We’ve also worked to create pocket parks such as the Mill Street Courtyard and the Lieutenant Roy McLaughlin (no relation) Park, in an area that was previously a paved over parking lot. The park has quickly become one of the most utilized and popular in the City and was named after a fallen police officer. |

1. Natural Resource Protection: Comprehensively managing and protecting regional natural resources (i.e., air, water and land)

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| Yonkers has received funding from the state and federal government for the construction of the Yonkers Greenway. The grant will help fund the City to convert an abandoned spur of the Old Putnam Railroad into a 2.2 mile trail through the heart of southwest Yonkers. The Yonkers Greenway will be built in phases to connect Van Cortlandt Park at the Bronx border with the Yonkers rail station serving the Metro North Hudson Line and Amtrak, twenty Westchester Bee Line routes and the MTA express commuter bus. The trail also will serve as a grid connector to several arterial roads such as McLean Avenue, Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Nepperhan Avenue, Main Street and their associated bus stops. |

1. Energy: Achieving energy efficiency in residential and commercial settings, in existing and new buildings, and with cutting-edge technology and the smarter use of older technology

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| During my time as Council President Yonkers has been awarded an energy initiative from the New York Power Authority. The five-year program offers up to $35 million in funding and will be cast as a competition between big cities for most of the funds. While we would prefer direct funding to make up for the years of inequity from Albany, seeing the focus put on the environment for a change is something we can all agree on. The initiative includes include a state-appointed energy manager for each city. According to NYPA, the energy-saving measures outlined in the Yonkers plan include bench-marking energy use in large buildings, teaching sustainability in Yonkers schools, expanding the use of renewable energy and promoting public transit-oriented development. |

1. Farms and Local Food: Managing development and providing access to healthy, fresh foods

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| I’ve corresponded frequently with the Yonkers Public Schools in relation to the school lunch program. We want to see healthy, locally-sourced, nutritious foods on our children’s trays. Sometimes the school meal is the only healthy meal of the day which they receive. |