

# Scott Lang Enters Mayoral Race

The number one issue facing voters, says attorney Scott Lang, is safety—public safety. People feel “unsettled,” and it is affecting the city’s quality of life.

A former assistant district attorney for 12 years, Mr. Lang promises to address the problem immediately. He would re-man the north and south end police stations, place kiosks, or substations around the city, access equipment and technology from regional, state and federal authorities, and develop top down tactical reorganization that incorporates new and innovative ways to fight crime. He suggests heightened community interaction between line officers and the communities they serve via increased bicycles, motorcycles, or foot patrols.

The long-time city resident of 27 years promises a conciliatory, mediation-friendly approach with all unions and other organized groups, asking neighborhood leaders how he can help them. “I want to put people together,” he says, suggesting that he and city councilors have weekly information sharing meetings.

“I want to be conciliatory to everyone except the criminal,” he said, comparing his leadership style to that of a maitre’d bringing people to a table. He would encourage city councilors and administrators to assume high visibility roles and share in credit for successful initiatives. His policies are that of team leader and to that end shared responsibility and rewards are a vital part of the game plan.

The second big issue facing the city, Mr. Lang says, is taxes and quality of city services.

He will examine every item in the city’s budget and minimize waste of resources or manpower. He believes we can beat the crime problem, by mobilizing and allocating our resources more effectively. A prioritized agenda and the willingness to implement it will produce immediate results for the city.

Mr. Lang also addressed priority issues such as economic development and education. His economic development policy would be to consider all options regarding site locations with an eye toward environmental and displacement impact. He was particularly at odds with the Home Depot project. He passionately advocates for open bidding process that rewards creative property use and promises maximum benefit to the City’s quality of life and long-term revenue generation.

The candidate is strongly in favor of a conference and hotel center. Regarding airport expansion, he said the facility is key to development as long as safeguards are put in place that don’t adversely impact the quality of life.

Scott Lang promises “no gimmicks” and “no sideshows” in race and in his administration. He would like to elevate New Bedford High School to a level in which all students and administrators can take pride. He wants to make getting a high school diploma mean something.

Scott Lang moved to New Bedford in 1978 after graduating Marquette University with a history and political science degree and getting a law degree from Georgetown University in 1976. He has been married to Marguerite “Gig” Lang since 1973; they have three children, who were all born at St. Luke’s Hospital in New Bedford. He has worked in the sports and entertainment law field and has experience in labor law. He is also an adjunct political science instructor at UMass Dartmouth since 1992.