



October 25, 2011

SEEAL to Host New Bedford Mayoral Candidates Forum on Energy and Environment

Each candidate will speak for about 10-15 minutes. Then, they will each respond to the same two questions, that they will be sent ahead of time. Hopefully there will be time for them to also answer a question or two from the audience.

New Bedford Mayoral Candidates' Forum on Energy and Environment
Co-hosted by the Marion Institute's P.O.W.E.R. Project, YouthBuild New Bedford, and UMass Dartmouth's Sustainability Office
Thursday, November 3rd, 2-3:30 p.m.
Buzzards Bay Coalition | 114 Front St, New Bedford, MA | Croll Conference Room
Free and open to the public--all are welcome--let's fill the room--youth are highly encouraged to attend!

Agenda:

- 2:00: Arrival & Networking (light refreshments)
- 2:15: Welcome & Overview
- 2:30: Tony Cabral (Nine-term State Legislator)
- 3:00: Jon Mitchell (Assistant U.S. Attorney)

The two questions that have been sent to the candidates ahead of time are:

- 1) Over 90% of scientists, worldwide, agree climate change is real, and that it is human-caused. What is your level of understanding about this issue, how would you categorize the seriousness of climate change, and how will you actively work to help the city mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts, such as sea level rise, etc?
- 2) The City has really moved forward to promote and adopt clean energy technologies, to include large-scale energy efficiency initiatives, solar energy campaigns, and sustainable transportation, and not just on the municipal level, but also commercial and residential. An over-arching 5-year 20% energy use-reduction plan for all sectors, is in place. How well do you know about this initiative, the programs that support this goal, and what is your overall level of support? For instance, a majority of the City's Energy Office costs are currently paid for by the feds, but only through February 2013--what are your plans to help keep momentum for these existing large-scale initiatives, like "New Bedford Energy Now," and how will you help to sustain the City's Energy Office?

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