

Largaespada for Benicia City Council?

By Larnie Fox, October 19, 2018

To the best of my knowledge Lionel Largaespada is someone who cares about Benicia, as we all do, and has given many hours in service to our community and schools. He deserves credit for this. However, in my opinion, he does not deserve a seat on our City Council.

He will give priority to big business and union interests over ours. Clearly Valero and its allies believe this, or they wouldn't be spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to buy him a seat on our City Council. You can be sure that they have done their research. Largaespada is Director of Marketing and Business Development at F3 and Associates. This company's clients include big oil and real estate development companies including Valero, Lennar Homes, Sunoco, Tesoro and many others.

Public safety will not be his priority as he claims. If that were true, he would not have publicly supported Valero's plan to bring hundreds of rail cars per day loaded with highly toxic and explosive shale and tar sands crude oil through Benicia's Industrial Park.

He claims he "wants to make Benicia better for the next generation". If that were true, why would he accept over \$40,000 as a campaign consultant for "No on 29"? In 2011-12, Largaespada worked to defeat Proposition 29, a tax on tobacco with proceeds to be used for cancer research. The campaign was heavily funded by big tobacco companies. Now, hypocritically, he's working to keep legal cannabis out of Benicia, cutting off a potential tax revenue stream for the City, while encouraging a local black market that could hurt our kids. He shows no enthusiasm for air monitors in our community or in our schools despite increasing asthma rates.

With Largaespada on the Council, we'd be guaranteed another four years of gridlock and divisiveness, the same problem that led to delays in needed repairs to our aging water system and the current rate increases. We could have solved that problem years ago if we had had a forward-looking, proactive City Council in place.

Largaespada, along with his big-money backers are in step with the current administration in Washington. This year let's elect local leaders whose interests align with ours. Protect the environment, encourage smart growth, and put us at the negotiating table with Valero. Elect Kari Birdseye and Christina Strawbridge.

Larnie Fox
10/19/2018

Note: These views are my own. I did not inform or obtain consent from any other candidate or campaign prior to publishing this letter.