

# Meet the candidate: John Daniels for alderman

By Jen Bondeson News-Post Staff | Posted: Saturday, August 17, 2013 2:00 am

*John Daniels is a Democratic candidate for alderman.*

**1. Should the city continue investing public dollars in business ventures? The city owns an airport (Frederick Municipal Airport), a theater (Weinberg Center for the Arts) and a golf course (Clustered Spires). Should the city be investing in a downtown hotel and conference center?**

No, the city should not make a direct investment with cash or loan guarantees for the hotel. The city could play a role in assisting with site selection, land acquisition and infrastructure needs such as parking, but we have to be careful about the concessions we make — they have long-term effects. I think it prudent as a candidate for aldermen to refrain from prognosticating about possible proffers before the negotiating process begins in earnest.

**2. Assess the efficiency of the Frederick Police Department. What improvements should be made?**

The city continues to invest in technology and equipment to assist the police in being more effective in protecting the residents of the city. Two improvements that would contribute to a more efficient and effective force: (1) Ensure that the required number of sworn officers and support personnel are provided for in the budget and that those positions are filled. (2) Provide a modern, more efficient building to house our police.

**3. Are the city's resources (funding, police, planning, recreation, etc.) allocated appropriately throughout its neighborhoods? Name any neighborhoods you feel receive too much or too little, and explain why.**

I believe that our mayor, department directors and aldermen attempt to allocate resources where they are needed most. At first glance, it does appear that some neighborhoods may be getting more than others in the form of recreational facilities. If that is true, we clearly need to reallocate resources.



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John Daniels, candidate for Frederick Alderman

Community policing, predictive modeling and real-time occurrences dictate the allocation of our police and reflect best management practices.

**4. What's your view on the status of business and crime along Carroll Creek Linear Park? Is the city moving in the right direction when it comes to redeveloping this area?**

Proactive policing and maintaining a presence will ensure that the creek remains safe. Completing phase two of the linear park and attracting a hotel/conference center will add tremendous potential for businesses along the creek to prosper. This project will create a walking loop connecting Carroll Creek to East Patrick Street and back to Market Street. Such a loop will provide the foot traffic necessary for shops, restaurants and other attractions to thrive.

**5. What is the best plan for Hargett Farm?**

First, we should explore our options under the current financing arrangement and determine allowable uses. If none of those allowed uses are satisfactory, I would then explore creative ways to deal with the bonding restrictions, which might be selling a piece of the property and utilizing the remainder as a city recreational destination. That facility could include green space, ballfields, trails, and an aquatic facility.

*The Frederick News-Post invited candidates in this year's Frederick mayor and Board of Aldermen election to give their thoughts on some of the city's issues. We will publish their responses over the next few weeks leading up to the Sept. 10 primary election.*

*Republican candidate Hayden Duke will be featured Sunday.*